

# THE TIMES

Four years in Europe:  
Parliament's  
sacrifice of power, p3

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## Post workers may appeal to Lords over injunction

Post workers union may appeal to the Lords if the Court of Appeal extends its temporary injunction preventing the union from boycotting to South Africa. The court criticized and ruled Mr Silkin, QC, Attorney General, who used the National Association for Freedom of Information to seek the injunction, and invited to explain his reasons tomorrow.

## Growing criticism of Mr Silkin's role

Mr John Stokes, Tory MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, said he hoped the Prime Minister would dismiss Mr Silkin, who had "clearly fallen down on his job as a lawyer". But Sir Michael Lavers, QC, Mr Silkin's Conservative shadow, said "I think it is nonsense to call for his resignation, because until we have heard the other side we have to reserve our position". He would wait to hear any explanation to the court Mr Silkin makes tomorrow, and then advise the Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Silkin's explanation is not considered adequate by the Shadow Cabinet press for an emergency debate, which could take place on Wednesday. Mr Jackson said that the planned inter-union boycott of South Africa had lost its sting because of the court's ruling. The union has instructed its members and officials to work normally instead of operating the boycott as part of their contribution to the call for international action from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The injunction was granted also against the Post Office Engineering Union, which has also instructed its members to suspend their proposed contribution to the boycott.

## 'Prison taxi' policy talks after four murders

Arthur Hickey, a Leicester officer, said that the policy of transporting prisoners by taxi, after the murder of William Hughes, who had been in custody since Friday night, was a "disgrace". William Hughes, shadow Secretary, yesterday for immediate Government action to ensure that prisoners are not transported by taxi while in transit, and a statement is issued. Governor of Leicester Mr N. F. Low, has said that he is not sure if the Home Office will do anything. However, the Home Office is looking into the general question of the use of taxis for transporting prisoners, which is a long-standing problem.

## Dies from old people's home may be humed after post-mortem examination

Michael Horsnell, a Leicester officer, said that the bodies of six old people, who died in a period of two months last year, at an old people's home, may be exhumed as a result of police inquiries. The bodies were found in a room at the home, Cooperscroft, near Bar, Hertfordshire, a senior member of the Home Office is being carried out by Derbyshire police into whether the cottage was visited during the search for Hughes. The sequence of violent events began last Wednesday when Hughes was being taken from Leicester prison to Chesham, where he was due to face charges of rape and causing grievous bodily harm. In the taxi he attacked his two guards, punching one and stabbing the other with a knife he had concealed. He handcuffed the officers together and, threatening the taxi driver with the knife, forced him to drive into the countryside and then ordered all three out of the car. After the vehicle was found abandoned near the village of Beoley, a search was launched, with more than 100 police officers and two Army helicopters. Meanwhile, Hughes had found a hiding place, the home of the Moran family, at Easton, about four miles away. He arrived at their cottage on Wednesday and police believe that Mrs Moran, aged 35, was then at home with her parents. Mr Arthur Minton, aged 72, and his wife Amy, aged 70. It is thought that first his daughter, Sarah, aged 10, returned from school, and then his wife, Mrs Moran, aged 36, returned from work. The police said that what was done at the house over the next two days was made to appear as normal as possible and had been done by the family in fear of their lives. It was not before Friday evening that news of their ordeal reached the police. Mrs Moran was able to get away to tell a neighbour what was happening, but Hughes apparently found out where she had gone. He forced her into the family car, a Chrysler 180 saloon, and drove off. A police car picked up the vehicle and began a pursuit. At Tideswell Moor Hughes lost control of the car and stopped. The police officers approached but found that he had a knife at his throat's throat. They tried to negotiate, but eventually gave Hughes their own car. The chase was resumed to Rainworth where Hughes crashed into a wall and negotiations started again between him and the police. Two detectives armed with Webley .38 revolvers arrived. Mr Alfred Mitchell, assistant chief constable of Derbyshire, said: "There came a moment when the woman's life was obviously in immediate danger and without question the officers had no alternative but to shoot. There was a frenzied



Explosions injure two: Damage to a block of flats at Newark, Nottinghamshire, caused by escaping gas which exploded after a disabled man of 78 pulled down a cooker on top of himself. In Leeds, a disabled man and his wife were trapped by an explosion which destroyed their house. The man injured at Newark, Mr Charles Lambert, of Queen's Court, was in his ground-floor flat when the explosion happened on Saturday night. He was taken to hospital with burns to his face, hands and legs. Ambulance men evacuated 20, mostly elderly people, from the building. The second explosion happened yesterday in Masham Street, Leeds, when Mr Ernest Greenhough, aged 58, and his wife, Judith, were in bed. They were buried by rubble, but firemen released them after 15 minutes. Both were taken to Leeds Infirmary, where Mrs Greenhough, who had internal injuries and shock, was "rather poorly" last night. Mr Greenhough suffered shock but his condition was satisfactory. A neighbour's house was partly demolished and many houses in the area had their windows shattered. The North Eastern Gas Board said yesterday that because of extensive damage it had not been possible to find the cause of the blast. Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson, MP for the New Forest, said there had been far too many explosions this winter for coincidence to be the main factor, and urged the Government to make an immediate statement.

## Union leader's warning on free pay bargaining

One of the principal architects of the social contract, Mr David Bassett, warned trade unionists yesterday that an immediate and disorderly return to free collective bargaining could cause havoc in the trade unions and mean "certain defeat for the Labour Government". Mr Bassett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers Union, said he was in favour of a further agreement with the Government although the strain was showing of the current flat rate policy on wages. "There cannot be a third round of wage restraints that involve the kind of cuts in living standards of the past two years, nor can there be a rigid formula like the past two years, preventing any flexibility at local level," he said. He repeated Mr Len Murray's comment that next time, a simple bargain of wage restraint for tax concessions would not be acceptable. Mr Bassett, who is a member

## West Africa coup attempt fails

Cotonou, Jan 16—A group of "mercenaries", who launched an attack at dawn today on Cotonou, chief town in the West African state of Benin, formerly Dahomey, have been defeated, according to an official communiqué. The communiqué, broadcast this afternoon, did not identify the mercenaries, except to say they were "in the pay of international imperialism". It said they had landed in a DC 8 aircraft at an airport near Cotonou. They had been put to flight because of the response to the attack by the Benin army and the population of Cotonou and were now heading towards an area near the frontier with Togo. Benin, a former French colony, became independent in 1960. Since October 1972, it has been governed by President Mathieu Kérékou who seized power in a coup. Two years after he came to power, Marxist-Leninist scientific socialism was proclaimed as the country's official political system. —Reuters.

## SAS kill gunman during battle near Ulster border

From Christopher Walker, Belfast. A man was killed yesterday afternoon in a gun battle close to the Irish border, between members of the Provisional IRA and a patrol of soldiers from the Special Air Service Regiment involved in secret surveillance duties. The incident occurred near a spot about two and a half miles south of the south Armagh village of Crossmaglen and looking across into the Irish Republic. It contains a number of secret hideouts which the SAS have established close to the border to track down the supply routes of arms and explosives. According to the Army, the shooting began after the SAS unit, which in official language was mounting a "static patrol", heard a vehicle draw up. A man wearing a mask around his neck and combat clothing approached them in the rugged countryside which distinguishes the area, once called by a government minister as "bandit country". As members of the SAS unit approached the man, who was carrying a pump action shotgun, the army claim that the unit came under fire from at least one other gunman. The SAS fired approximately 28 rounds, killing the man with the shotgun, and about 20 shots from Armalite rifles were fired back at them. The incident is certain to arouse controversy. The highly trained soldiers of the SAS have rarely come into the public eye since about 80 of them arrived in south Armagh early last year. Last night the RUC were investigating the death; the Army was carrying out follow-up action in the area, and unofficial reports from the republic claimed that Irish police were questioning men in a car stopped on a lonely road in Co. Louth. Since the SAS arrived, violence in south Armagh has dropped dramatically. Army officers were privately noting the irony that the pump action shotgun being carried by the dead man was the same type of weapon as a member of the SAS will be charged with possessing when he and seven colleagues face trial in Dublin in March. During the day troops fired a volley of bullets at an angry crowd that gathered in the Turf Lodge estate, in Belfast, after soldiers had seized an Armalite rifle. Troop withdrawals plan denied, Page 2.

## Gilmore execution today

From Peter Strafford, New York, Jan 16. Justice Byron White, of the Supreme Court in Washington, today rejected a final plea to prevent the execution of Gary Gilmore, the convicted murderer who insists on being executed. The decision meant that, barring unexpected developments, Mr Gilmore will go before a firing squad in the grounds of the Salt Lake City prison tomorrow morning. Previously, judges in Salt Lake City had also rejected moves to prevent the execution. Mr Gilmore himself has had nothing to do with these moves, and has denounced the people responsible for them. But lawyers for other people under sentence of death in Utah have gone ahead with them, since they believe their own cases will be expedited if Mr Gilmore is executed. The execution, if it is carried out, will be the first in the United States since 1967. Opponents of capital punishment are afraid it will be the start of a long series of executions. In prison in Salt Lake City today, Mr Gilmore was under the constant watch of two guards, since he has twice tried to commit suicide.

## Money growth falls in line with targets

Growth in the money supply continued to fall sharply in the three weeks to December 8, keeping the annual rate in line with government targets. Broadly defined money, M3, expanded by 4.9 per cent compared with 14.4 per cent in the previous month and a peak of 22.2 per cent in September. This suggests that domestic credit expansion during the period covered may have been cut back by about £250m. Page 15.

## Many teachers lack training

A report by the Government's advisory committee on teacher training says nearly one-third of teaching in colleges of education is being done by part-time staff, most of whom have not been trained. It recommends an initial scheme of training at post-school level. Page 3.

## Basques beat roadblocks

Although Spanish riot police and civil guards set up road blocks, 1,000 Basques managed to attend a meeting which called for an amnesty for all political prisoners and the restoration of traditional Basque rights. Page 4.

## Opposition to CIA nomination

Mr Theodore Sorensen's nomination as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency is expected to run into trouble in the Senate, which must confirm it, following the discovery that he used classified documents in a book after leaving his job with President Kennedy. Page 5.

## Probation call

Shorter periods of supervision for offenders are suggested by the National Association of Probation Officers. In recommendations to the Home Office it says that the present terms are wasteful of staff resources and are unhelpful to those being cared for. Page 4.

## Arab summit

Cairo will be the venue for an Arab summit conference in March at which further concerted moves will be agreed towards accelerating Middle East peace. Page 4.

## Leader page, 13.

Letters: On second home purchases, from Mr Peter Jackson and others; the government of Ulster, from Mr Paul Maguire and Mr David Morrison. Leading article: Dr Kissinger. Page 14. Features, pages 10 and 12. Lord Chalfont on the distinction between communism and other forms of oppression. Roger Bernheim looks at the membership qualifications for the EEC. Seventy-five years of the TLS. Arts, page 12. Michael Hardill on Moses—the *Laugier* (ATV); Clive Bennett on James Brown at Hammermith; Derek Parker reviews *Frederick Rolfe*; Baron Corvo, by Miriam J. Benkovitz; concert notices.

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HOME NEWS

# Rejection of Tory Bill of Rights move likely

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Staff

Cabinet ministers have been holding detailed discussions on the possibilities of legislating at some future date for a Bill of Rights which would define more clearly the Government's attitude towards the European Convention on Human Rights.

Ministers, however, are expected to reject new clauses proposed by the Opposition enshrining a Bill of Rights in the Scotland and Wales Bill providing for devolution. Some of them believe that the clauses are unlikely to be called because they will be ruled to be outside the scope of the Bill.

A firm commitment that the Conservatives would introduce a Bill of Rights to protect individual liberty and freedom was given by Mr Pym, Opposition spokesman on devolution, in a statement after a party meeting in Perth on Saturday. He said that in trying to amend the devolution Bill to limit the powers of the proposed Scottish and Welsh assemblies, "for the first time in Britain we are trying to define our basic rights in the law".

He said it would be "intolerable and unacceptable if an action of the assembly were to undermine, or even threaten to undermine, any of these". Mr Pym defined the basic rights which Parliament has long upheld as: "Procedures for arrest and detention; privacy; freedom of religion, freedom of expression of opinion; freedom to form associations; and equality of treatment before the law, race, colour, creed or national origin."

The ministerial view is that the Scotland and Wales Bill is the wrong place to introduce a Bill of Rights because it would be impossible to incorporate a precise definition that would not leave it open to varying interpretations by the courts and thereby directly affect the supremacy of Parliament. The Conservative proposal is being treated as a "sidekick" in the devolution debate.

Mr Edward Taylor, shadow Secretary for Scotland, stated yesterday that Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, had been unfairly criticised over Conservative Party tactics on devolution.

He told prospective Conservative candidates in Perth that the decision to vote against the second reading of the devolution Bill had been made by the whole Shadow Cabinet. It was what Mrs Thatcher had said the party would do last May if the Government's Bill was based on the devolution White Paper, which it turned out to be.

# Withdrawing troops 'could turn Belfast into another Beirut'

From Ronald Kerahaw  
Barnsley

A report that the Government plans to withdraw from Ulster half the 14,000 British troops serving there unless there is a dramatic increase in the level of violence has been denied as completely untrue by Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Speaking last night in his constituency, Barnsley, the Minister, who was clearly upset by what appeared to be a factual account of government plans in *The Sunday Times*, said: "All week I have been stressing to people, including the National Union of Journalists, the need for responsible attitudes, and I consider the story that appeared in the early editions of *The Sunday Times* to be an example of irresponsible reporting."

The early editions, which he received in Barnsley and which he understood went to Northern Ireland, did not carry the denials from the authorities that were included in later editions.

He added: "The story stated there will be a cutback of 7,000 troops from Northern Ireland; not true; that 500 troops had been withdrawn before Christmas; not true; that we have 12,000 in the Ulster Defence Regiment; not true."

He agreed that he had announced in mid-December plans to move 500 troops from the province, but that had not yet been carried out.

Worried about the reaction from both sides in Ulster, he referred to an article he had just given to the Labour and Trades Union Press Service, for use in trade union magazines,

on the dangers of pulling out troops.

In the article he sets out the two main arguments for withdrawing. One is that the Army is unable to stop the violence and soldiers are setting themselves up, to no good purpose, as targets for gunmen and that the Irish should be allowed to get on with killing each other.

The second is that once the British are gone and Ulster is left to its own devices the contending factions will settle their differences peacefully.

Mr Mason writes: "Both arguments cannot be right. Either there would be a blood-bath if the Army were to leave or there would be peace, perfect peace. Which is it to be?"

For the people of Northern Ireland it is not an academic argument or merely a question for political debate. It is a matter of life and death.

"No one who views the situation in Northern Ireland from close at hand would give much chance for peace if British soldiers were pulled out."

"I do not believe for a moment that it would turn out like that. Nor for that matter do the Irish Government."

"What would in fact happen in such a situation would be that one paramilitary faction or the other would seek to gain an advantage over its opponents and to take preventive action. The blood could flow with a terrible vengeance. Belfast could become a Beirut. Should we allow that to happen? If it did happen, could we afford to step in and watch?"

The Minister gives two reasons why pulling troops out could not be contemplated. "First, it would be a dishonourable abdication of res-

ponsibility in a situation which, whether we like it or not, have inherited from the past.

These are our people. The way of Pontius Pilate cannot be for us."

"Secondly, we should be fooling ourselves if we thought that the bloodletting would be confined to Northern Ireland. It could easily spread to the major cities of the mainland, with their large Irish populations. Once it got hold there, where would it stop?"

"As the security situation continues to improve, as I believe it is doing, the opportunity should be taken to hand over more and more of the responsibility for maintaining law and order in Northern Ireland to the police and to reduce the number of soldiers there. That is indeed the Government's aim."

"It is, however, a different thing altogether from advocating the early withdrawal of troops."

"Propagation of the doctrine of the troops Out Movement causes despair among the majority of Irish people on both sides of the border. It gives a free propaganda boost to the Provisional IRA and could even encourage them to commit murder and destruction in the mistaken belief that only one final heave was needed."

Duke of Ulster: The Duke of Gloucester is to visit Northern Ireland next month (the Press Association reports).

He will arrive on February 15, and on the next day, as Grand Prior of the Order of St John, he will install the Duke of Westminster as Knight Commander of the Commandery of Ards at Hillsborough Castle.

# Bacteria that extract uranium from ores

By Our Science Editor

The production of a strain of bacterium that can extract uranium from hitherto unusable ores is among developments to be discussed this week at a special international meeting in London.

The conference, which starts today, was arranged by the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, London, and is devoted to geological prospecting and mining and extraction processes for uranium, with special reference to Europe.

In effect, that means looking at ways of extending reserves of uranium, one of the most rapidly disappearing mineral resources.

The demand for uranium is clearly tied to the increase in nuclear power needed for the generation of electricity. Cases for nuclear energy for the next 20 years indicate spectacular increases which are far in excess of the known long-term reserves of ore to fulfil the world's atomic power programme.

Yet the question of adequacy of supplies has become an issue for serious study and action only within the past three years. The mining industry, which now supplies the bulk of uranium, was formed 25 years ago; but demand for uranium for commercial purposes did not develop for another 10 years, when prices were \$6 to \$8 a pound for uranium oxide.

It was then that the search for uranium ore to convert into the compound that is fed into uranium enrichment plants.

With hindsight it is easy to see that difficulties would arise within a few years. Nevertheless, six years ago producers had large unsolved inventories and excess production capacity.

Prices were below \$3 a pound. The oil crisis of the winter of 1973-74 changed that. Consumer countries sought to secure long term supplies, with prices adjusting quickly to about \$12 and gradually rising to more than \$20 a pound. That trend has continued.

The world reserves of easily obtainable uranium ore are about one million tonnes, compared with a requirement of about four million tonnes forecast for the year 2000 and of about 10 million tonnes by 2020.

Lower grades of uranium ore that would cost much more to develop could provide about 750,000 tonnes. Hence efforts at finding new reserves have intensified and have made reserves in countries like Brazil, which is not a producer, begin to look attractive in the long term, even though the minerals are extremely sparse and difficult to mine.

More important reserves may exist in uranium that can be extracted as a by-product of other large mining operations. It occurs in quantities that now look economic for production in gold seams and associated with copper ore deposits.

Extraction by processes using bacteria and more unusual chemical processes can be used in some by-product operations.

# 'Scottish Daily News' plant sold to Outrams

The former Beaverbrook building and presses in Albion Street, Glasgow, where the Scottish Daily News was printed, has been bought by the publishers of *The Glasgow Herald* and the *Evening Times*.

The purchase, by George Outram Ltd, an undisclosed sum, enables the group to go ahead with a modernisation programme costing about £8m. Mr John Crawford, the managing director, said last night.

Modernisation, he added, would involve introducing the latest computer-based newspaper printing technology within two years, with a consequent reduction in staffing.

The deal will allow Outrams to sell their premises in Mitchell Street, in central Glasgow, where production of the two newspapers has become difficult because of narrow access lanes.

The *Scottish Daily News* was published by a workers' cooperative. It launched six months after launching and was put into the hands of a liquidator.

# Airports battle 'fought on wrong issues'

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Fears about aircraft noise should not be allowed to stand in the way of airports policy. The Government should secure a reduction of the nuisance by improved design of aircraft and their engines, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce says today.

The association argues that pressure groups were mistaken during the debate over the siting of the third London airport, not in their objection to aircraft noise but in the way they wished to see it tackled.

They wanted airports moved away from people so that aircraft noise would be less obtrusive. They paid no attention to the prospects held out by advancing aircraft technology, despite clear suggestions that the nuisance would be removed.

"The primary casualty in all this amateur and unprofessional participation has been the quality of the airport debate. The wrong people have been arguing about the wrong things and the result has been the conspicuous absence of a national plan for airports."

The association is giving its views on a consultation document issued by the Department of Trade on airport strategy for Britain. One of the association's main conclusions is that the Government was right to direct its attention to proper regional airports instead of more giant airports in the south-eastern corner of the country.

So extensive was the catch-

ment area required by a successful international airport that there was scope for only one to serve north and central England. The best compromise candidate was Manchester, probably enlarged with a second runway.

Sufficient demand might emerge to sustain up to three additional airports to serve short-haul destinations from the Midlands, the North-east and the South-west.

Airports in Great Britain (ABCC), 6 Dean Farrar Street, SW1, 11.501. Regional airports: Regional airports should continue to be under local ownership and control and not that of the British Airports Authority, the Town and Country Planning Association says today (Our Planning Report).

It accuses the Government's consultation document of playing down, "sometimes to a quite extraordinary degree," the capacity of a regional airport to promote economic development.

The association acknowledges the need to discriminate in favour of a few selected airports in the allocation of national funds. But it refuses to endorse the idea that authorities elsewhere should be prevented from developing competitive facilities at their own expense. Still less does it agree that the selected airports should come under common ownership.

The association says a new airport at Manly would have predominantly beneficial effects on the development of the regional centres, and wholly beneficial effects on south Essex and the London region.

# 'Dissident' turned away from SLP rally

From Ronald Faux  
Glasgow

A year ago the S Labour Party was form protest at the Govern policy on devolution and its members considered drift away from socialism. Unfortunately, by press itself as a radical se alternative, the party at a group of the ultra-radical and, ironically, spent its first year fighting the

In Stirling last year too in bitterness. The sub-purge inevitably damaged credibility. But last week SLP reassembled its resolute and without once refer its wounding schisms, re its first congress in Glas

There were about 140 gares, all carefully screened before they arrived to enter the hall. Some of the ex "dissidents" turned up at the hall, lobbying the del as they arrived, but not inside. Mr James Sillar SLP leader and MSP for Shire, South, remarked it would be easier for them into Fort Knox.

The congress was under a sound political discussion one delegate put it. F close were passed smooth rediculous topics, such as energy and oil, jobs and try, and fishing. There calls for a slow-down exploitation of the North and for all rigs and required in the North to be built in Scotland.

Delegates accused the G ment of failing to protect in the oil platform con don industry, and urged make its intentions clear cause thousands of men redundancy at Scottish y the party still relies b on the persistence and p convictions of Mr Sillar a small, dedicated group opposed to the Govern handling of the econom its plans for Scotland.

To lessen that depen and spread the party fluence beyond the press branches, it has begun a double its membership 3,000.

The aim is to win a among socialists who b that the best future for land lies with an ass holding much stronger p over the economy than Government is prepared allow, but who distrust ism as presented by the Se National Party.

Evidence from the Scottish Council, 211, to the Royal Commission on the NHS (BMA Scottish Office, 7 Drumhugh Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 7QP).

# Scottish health services board is proposed

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

Scottish doctors fear that if health matters are devolved to a Scottish assembly the services will suffer through greater interference from politicians.

To "provide a buffer in the best interests of patient care," the Scottish Medical Association proposes the establishment of a Scottish Health Services Board to take health care out of politics.

The proposal is made in the council's evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service, published today. In its draft evidence the English council decided against a national health corporation because it considered that the disadvantages outweighed the advantages.

But many doctors in BMA divisions in England feel strongly that the health service should be run by a national corporation. When the association's evidence is considered at a special representative meeting of the profession in March the Scottish view will no doubt be quoted, although it is recognized that there are many differences between what is needed in health services north and south of the border.

The new board would be appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland and would account to the minister for its actions.

Evidence from the Scottish Council, 211, to the Royal Commission on the NHS (BMA Scottish Office, 7 Drumhugh Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 7QP).

# Deprived NHS region 'cannot catch up'

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Even with the redistribution of funds decided on by Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, the Trent region cannot catch up with the national average in under 10 years, Mr Maurice Rigden, treasurer of the Trent Regional Health Authority, says.

In a statement on the allocation of resources, Mr Rigden said there was relief that the growth rate for Trent at 3 per cent was now twice the national average. But there was apprehension that the commitments already entered into for 1977-78 and 1978-79 may not be fully implemented.

His calculation was that the region's annual expenditure was at least 14 per cent below the national average per head of population.

By deciding to protect the Thames regions from an absolute cut in revenue, Mr Ennals had prolonged the period during which equalization between

the two extremes could be brought about.

Trent region had four different kinds of commitments which together greatly exceeded the estimated £5m which a 3 per cent growth should produce.

First, the commitment to pay for a full year the running costs of capital schemes for which money for staff had been allocated for part of a year in 1976-77; and next, the commitment to pay for part of the year any further recruitment and running costs for capital schemes opening during 1977-78 or early in the following year.

Then there was the need to reinstate the power of area health authorities at the March 1976 level by meeting the full cost of inflation and the need to provide additional health services for the increasing and aging population.

Complaints to minister: A dossier of complaints from staff and patients in the psychiatric unit will be presented to Mr Moyle, Minister of State for Health, when he visits Hackney

Hospital on Wednesday Social Services Correspondent writes). The dossier will state that conditions at the unit intolerable because the hos has been starved of resour

Dr John Reed, a consu psychiatrist, said at the y and that conditions at the pital have led to two ac by patients. Staff and paid decided to call in the & campaign for health.

Mr Ronald Lacey, a worker to Mind, said com ants, doctors and nurses deeply concerned that shortage of psychiatric b discharged into the comm where no facilities exist

The lack of sec secure units meant people being imprisoned instead receiving treatment. Minister's visit: Mr Enns to visit Northampton Ge Hospital today to investi reports of bad conditions claims that people are d because of lack of funds.

# Travel and TV erode Welsh differences

One of the enduring pleasures of living in Wales is to read the letters in local newspapers to see what Welshmen think of each other. If the evidence of the unrestrained epistles is to be believed, most Welshmen think most of their compatriots are either spendthrifts, intemperant, extremist drunks, or plous, kill-joy, extremist peasants.

Only a few days ago a North Welshman wrote in the *Liverpool Daily Post*: "No honest person can challenge the fact that the majority of people in South Wales are Labour, Marxist, or Trotskyite, that they are of a rebellious mentality and are happy. They are heavy drinkers drinking clubs abound everywhere down there, and their thinking must be fuddled."

In a way, it is abuse hurled within a family. Any Englishman who says these things would be run out of town. This virulent insult is also a national sport of long standing, and it occupies a curious corner in the developing devolution debate.

At the heart of the matter are the real and imagined differences between Gog and Hwtwns. In South Wales the people of the North are known as Gogs, because the Welsh word for north is *gogledd*. To the Gogs, the South Wales are *Hwtwns*, meaning "the people far beyond."

To judge from the letter columns, and to generalize, which in Wales is dangerous, the South thinks the Gogs who begin at Merthyr are purple lipped, mountain men, fanatical nationalists speaking funny

# Regional report

## Trevor Fishlock Cardiff

English and funny Welsh. The North thinks the South is full of wank, fanatical lefties speaking funny Welsh and funny English.

Of course, there are real differences. The south has a distinctive accent in Welsh and English, plays rugby, eats a stew called cawl, and is the part of Wales where English is the first language of a majority. The North has its distinctive accent in Welsh and English, plays soccer, eats a stew called llosg, and is the part where Welsh is the first language of a majority.

There are other differences. Southern humour has a lot of repartee, while northern humour is based more on solemn legging.

At one time the differences were more profound. But motorizing, television, marriage and changing employment patterns, as well as the growth of political and academic institutions, have steadily brought North and South together. The differences have been softened, and Wales is an entity it never was in the past. More North Wales than ever are courting Gog and Hwtwns, while more South Wales have a grumpy in Anglesley.

Although the letter writers

presume to speak for everyone, the differences between North and South are now much more the subject of humour because ignorance is being eroded and Welsh people know each other better. The differences are, for example, the nub of a successful television comedy series.

It is true that the difference between the Welsh spoken in the North and that spoken in the South remains a difficulty for broadcasting organizations, who like to strike a balance between the two, but a more standard Welsh is evolving.

It would be wrong, however, to suggest that no prejudice exists. An important aspect of this matter is language, and it provides material for anti-devolutionists. The North is told that the Welsh Assembly would be run by the tipsy Hwtwns, and the South is told it will be run by the dangerous Gogs, who have been waiting in the mountains for centuries for just this opportunity.

It is difficult to say how much mileage there is in exploiting prejudice in that way. The language is a touchy subject. But because it is so touchy each other better, prejudice is much less strong than it was a generation ago.

Wales is an argumentative place in any case, and even if the devolution campaign becomes "dirty" on the language question, as some fear, Welshmen are more likely to allow their prejudice to evaporate in talk, and to continue to hurl their outrageous abuse at each other in letters to the editor.

# Mr Hayward supports threatened MP

By Our Political Staff

Support for Mr Neville Sandelson, centre-right Labour MP for Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington, who faces dismissal by his constituency party on Sunday, has come from Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party.

Mr Hayward has informed Mrs Ruth Belcher, an officer in the constituency party: "We were very pleased when he fought with you to win your present constituency and we hope that he will continue to fight for the same loyal service that we know he has given to the Labour Party since the early days when we first met him." Mr Hayward was writing in the context of a letter inviting him and Mrs Hayward to a dinner on February 19.

Hayes and Harlington Constituency Labour Party is to hold a special general management committee meeting on Sunday at which a final vote will be taken on a motion calling for Mr Sandelson's retirement as a candidate at the next general election. When the general management committee met in November a motion calling for the special meeting was carried by 23 votes to 17.

Mr Sandelson said: "I hope that the differences between myself and some of the people in my party will be resolved at the meeting on Sunday, and that they can unite in support of the Government."

# Missing diver found dead

The body of Lieutenant Ian Turner, aged 29, a Royal Marine diver, was recovered during a routine training exercise at Lower Loch Long on Saturday, was recovered last night.

The search for Lieutenant Turner's fellow diver, Corporal Christopher Dunworth, also aged 28, will be resumed today. A board of inquiry is being convened into their disappearance.

# 134 MPs back Meriden

A Commons motion calling on the Government to settle the problems of the Meriden motor plant, which has been closed since 1974, was signed by 134 Labour MPs.

# Agriculture Hugh Clayton

Increases to farmers last year reached a record total of £550m. Like Mr Jopling, Sir Henry has pointed out the decline in net product of the land in the year and the hopelessness of reaching the increase sought in the 1975 White Paper from our own resources. Each spoke into the cog and did not stop to consider how far from the 1980 target the country was at the moment produced. The gap is wider than it should be, but not as wide as a percentage calculation alone indicates.

Milk has been placed at the hub of the Government's programme of expansion and ministers acted late in each of the past two years to send out the word in output. The distance to be made up between present output and the target level for 1980 is now 25 per cent below the 25 per cent required by Sir Henry Plumb for all farm output computed on an overall percentage basis.

Professor Asher Winpenny, deputy director general of the NFU, believes in the teeth of opposition from the consumer and food processing lobbies that "a substantial increase in the guaranteed price of milk is inevitable". He said the Mr Silkin: "He has

said in the House of Commons that there is no incompatibility between the expansion here and the need for some contraction of output elsewhere in the Community."

When farming unions calculated the price rises they needed, they would take into account inevitable expansion elsewhere and the fact that would come with the final two transitional steps that will bring British prices to full EEC level. Professor Winpenny does not consider that the steps alone would provide a sufficient increase on prices.

"As far as we can see at the moment, on the commodities covered by the Community's regulatory system, the transitional increases support prices by a total of less than 3 per cent, compared with a 20 per cent increase in costs and an unsatisfactory trend in output."

The NFU is engaged in the exercise of seeing how much support prices will need to go up in the light of the White Paper. We may come to the view that it may be necessary to raise support prices for a particular commodity by 2 per cent. Then we shall see to what extent the remaining transitional steps will suffice."

The consumer lobby, which is now being organized, has been ever been, believes that the transitional steps will be enough to compensate farmers for cost increases in important commodities. Moreover, it wants Mr Silkin to press for a spreading of the steps over the next two years instead of just this year.

# Ombudsman to be asked about vaccine warning

The Department of Health failed when it advocated the introduction of whooping cough vaccine in 1957, to warn doctors that some children should not be given it, Mr Jack Ashley, MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, alleged yesterday.

He will ask Sir Idwal Pugh, the Health Ombudsman, today to investigate what he claims is a case of maladministration. As far back as 1950 there were reports of damage from the vaccine in rare cases, Mr Ashley said.

"The Health Department had seven years to check on the contra-indications and to warn all doctors."

Yet the 1957 circular did not mention contra-indications, conditions that meant the vaccine should not be vaccinated, for example, a personal or family history of fits or a cold or cough.

Mr Ashley is campaigning for compensation for some 300 children claimed to have been damaged by vaccines.

# Battle is joined over last stage of farm prices review

The final stage in the battle about British farm prices has been joined. Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, must decide between two conspicuously opposed views. Farmers want their prices to go up, but their main customers think they should be held down.

The first view is represented by Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, who wants a "significant" rise because the cost of producing food in this country has doubled in the past four years.

The opposite view is represented by the consumer lobby, which has urged upward progress of farm prices to be restrained severely, and by food processors, who believe that further rises will create surpluses

of raw materials while reducing consumption.

Mr Silkin believes that the state of British agriculture is "basically healthy" despite the second fall in real incomes in the year and a reduction of 3p in the pound last year in the real value of the wages of farm workers.

Mr Michael Jopling, a Conservative spokesman on farming, insists in reply that the Government must continue to hide behind the cost of living to hide the hopelessness of reaching the increase sought in the 1975 White Paper from our own resources. Each spoke into the cog and did not stop to consider how far from the 1980 target the country was at the moment produced. The gap is wider than it should be, but not as wide as a percentage calculation alone indicates.

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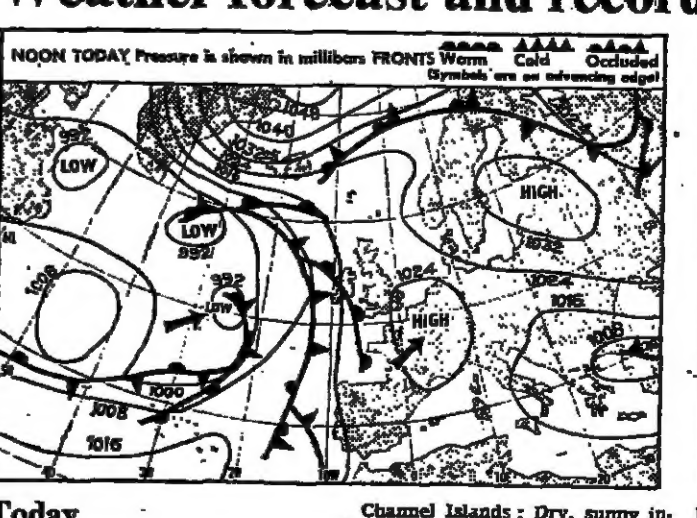
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Today  
Sun rises: 5.58 am  
Moon rises: 4.24 pm  
Sun sets: 5.41 pm  
Moon sets: 2.33 pm  
New Moon: January 19.

Lighting up: 4.54 pm to 7.27 am.  
High Water: London Bridge, 11.46 am, 6.50 pm. Avoonmouth, 4.57 am, 11.7m (38.3ft); 5.26 pm, 12.0m (39.4ft). Dover, 8.50 am, 6.3m (20.9ft); 9.28 pm, 6.4m (20.9ft). Hull, 3.49 am, 6.7m (22.0ft); 4.17 pm, 6.9m (22.5ft). Liverpool, 5.7 am, 8.7m (28.5ft); 9.37 pm, 8.7m (28.5ft).

Pressure will be high to the E of Britain while troughs of low pressure approach W areas. London, East Anglia, Midlands, Lake District, SE, S, E, NW and NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, and SW Scotland: Frezing fog patches clearing, sunny periods; wind variable, becoming S light; max temp 4° to 5° (39° to 41°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Mostly dry with cumulus intervals but occasional rain in the W spreading to some central and S districts, perhaps snow on high ground; rather cold with overnight frost, but temp near normal in W.

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Next: External relations  
No exclusive club, page 12

## Britain's first four years in Europe 1: Westminster and Whitehall New dimension in a wide range of decisions

By Roger Berthoud

The broad effect of four years of EEC membership on what Sir Harold Wilson calls the "Europeanization" of Britain has been to reduce the power of parliament in certain areas, to increase that of the Civil Service, and to introduce a European dimension into a wide range of decisions.

It was always realized that a price had to be paid for the political and economic gains, actual, potential or illusory, of joining the world's largest trading block with 250 million consumers. Part of that price was Britain's contribution to the EEC budget. That has turned out, thanks largely to the fall of sterling, to be much smaller than expected: £104m net in 1973, £33m net in 1974, and a gain of £54m in 1975. A ceiling linked to the United Kingdom's proportionate national wealth was "renegotiated" by Labour in 1975.

A more serious sacrifice was Parliament's immediate or gradual loss of control over legislation falling within the EEC's spheres of competence, notably agriculture and internal trade, but also increasingly large aspects of company law, taxation, regional aid, insurance, professional qualifications, environmental and consumer protection, among others.

Legislation in those matters now originates wholly or in part, according to the degree of progress in reaching a common policy, in the EEC's council of ministers. The European Commission drafts the proposals, and is responsible for their implementation after the council's decision.

Now have Westminster and Whitehall coped with that development? To a large extent, the "Europeanization" of Whitehall called for by Mr Heath after signing the Treaty of Accession has taken place.

The departments principally affected, the Foreign Office, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Trade, Industry, the Treasury, Customs and Excise and, as a sort of umpire, the Cabinet Office, have sprouted special units responsible for the internal coordination of policy on matters relating to the EEC. Gradually involvement in EEC business has extended to more and more sections within those ministries, and to almost all of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

There is a constant shuttle of Whitehall officials to and from Brussels to sit on the various management committees and expert groups working on the Commission's proposals within the council of ministers. That is in addition to the mini-Whitehall at the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the EEC in Brussels.

The same officials are likely to be at or near the side of British ministers when they negotiate in Brussels or Luxembourg, often on highly complex matters which the officials alone fully understand. The Committee of Permanent Representatives (of the Nine) in Brussels is probably the most influential group of officials in Europe.

The task of ensuring that a coherent United Kingdom negotiating position emerges from the often competing interests of different departments in Whitehall falls to the Cabinet

Office, which chairs a series of committee meetings at various levels.

It was only in May, 1974, that select committees were set up in the two houses of Parliament to monitor draft EEC legislation emanating from the Commission (Parliament, it should be noted, does not see United Kingdom legislation in draft form). The documents are seen by the scrutiny committees within a fortnight of arrival in London, with an explanatory memorandum from the relevant Whitehall department. That covers such matters as the impact on United Kingdom law, potential policy implications, and the expected legislative timetable.

The main aim of the scrutiny committees is to identify which of the 30 to 40 documents considered weekly requires parliamentary debate, and to make a report on the more important issues. They can either be referred to a standing committee, which can only report that it has considered the matter; or to the floor of the House for debate, where the resolution is usually that the House has "taken note". The debates are usually brief and at inconvenient times, mainly as a result of the pressure of "more important" domestic legislation. They tend to be thinly attended and reported.

Parliament has thus so far failed to evolve any means of expressing a firm, collective view on proposed legislation, let alone of mandating a minister to accept, reject or modify regulations which will never be debated through the usual legislative process of second and third readings and a committee

## Real value of wages 'down £10 in two years'

Two years of the social contract will soon have cost workers who abided strictly by the pay policy cuts of about £10 a week in real wages, a statistician said yesterday.

Mr Robert Chater, of Incomes Data Services, which reviews pay trends throughout the world, said that in April, 1975, the pay of the average full-time male employee in Britain was £60.80 a week.

A man who had just had a pay rise then would have received his £6 under phase one in April, 1976. His rise under phase two, due next April, should be £3.34 if the policy is strictly observed, giving a total of £70.14.

"It sounds like a £9.34 rise, but its real value, in April 1975 money, will be only £51.30 a week if inflation continues at the current figure of 15 per cent for the next three months, and the Treasury expects that," Mr Chater said. In buying power, that amounted to a cut of £9.50.

Calculations showed that a group of senior office workers on £72.90 a week in April, 1975, would be on £82.85 next April. It would be worth only £60.60 compared with two years earlier.

**Boys questioned**

Three boys, aged about 10, were questioned by Renfrew police on Saturday about a fire followed by an explosion which wrecked a whisky export depot at Braehead, Renfrew.

## More trained teachers 'down £10 in two years'

Devlin

On Correspondent

A third of the teaching colleges of further education are being done by part-time staff, most of whom have no training, according to a published report for the Government's advisory committee on teacher training.

Increasing numbers of school-leavers are leaving at 16 to go to further education, but the increase has not been matched by an increase in the number of teachers. The report says that more than 100,000 part-time teachers are now employed, but that more than 100,000 full-time teachers are needed to teach them for between two evenings a week.

A working group set up by the Training and Supply Committee, on which the Government and the teachers' unions are represented, has estimated that at the end of 1974-75 there were 165,000 part-time teachers and 66,500 full-time teachers. The group estimates that at the end of 1975-76 there will be 175,000 part-time teachers and 66,500 full-time teachers. The group estimates that at the end of 1975-76 there will be 175,000 part-time teachers and 66,500 full-time teachers.

Teachers' action: Children in Avon factored for more education because of industrial action which starts today in 265 of the authority's schools (the Press Association reports).

Some 4,000 members of the National Union of Teachers in the county still refuse to cover classes of an absent colleague from the second day of the teachers' absence. The protest is against the authority's decision to make 32 part-time teachers redundant and to reduce the working hours of 30 others.

## Volunteers in welfare work must have a bigger role

Healy

Services Correspondent

A mystique of professional superiority has been built up to care for one of the Volunteer Centre's report today. Instead of their resources and a help to ordinary people, the professional look on others as potential users to help them to with overstretched resources.

There is one message we wish to emphasize in this report, it is to point out that the statutory departments, faced with cuts, staff cuts, and the need for more resources, simply to lament the loss of volunteer resources and call loudly for volunteers.

Voluntary reconsideration of the way statutory agencies are run, and the way in which they are run, is needed, and volunteers must revise their priorities. A first priority is to regard official agencies, ranging from social services, as a resource to the community rather than the other way round.

It is not good enough for local workers to involve volunteers simply as assistants. Mr Ian Bruce, director of the Volunteer Centre, says, "We should be devoting more resources to supporting people in local neighbourhoods who want to help people under stress."

The report is based on a research study in Leicestershire which was unusual in being promoted jointly by four statutory services: education, health, probation and after-care, and personal social services. As well as looking at volunteers working in residential homes, the study examined several neighbourhood schemes.

Some depended heavily on enthusiastic individuals, like the sub-postmaster who organizes groups and collects replacements for old people's hearing aids and other equipment from the local hospital. He also provides a wheelchair for short-term loan to old people with broken legs, and organizes young mothers to look after elderly neighbours.

Others, based on local groups like Age Concern, concentrate on specific groups, but are poorly coordinated. All suffer from a shortage of new volunteers.

The report suggests ways of improving neighbourhood care and cooperation between services. One is to set up experimental "bridge groups" with three to five people living close to each other forming a team to visit one or two local people in need.

Creative Partnerships—A study in Leicestershire of Voluntary Community Involvement (The Volunteer Centre, 29 Lower King's Road, Beaumont, Hertfordshire, HP4 2AB, £1.50 plus 25p postage).

## Pressure threat to theatres financial difficulties

Staff Reporter

Theatres all over Britain are warned by the Arts Council that they may have to face financial difficulties. A similar warning has been issued to the Royal Court Theatre, in London, which may be shut down.

The Arts Council will not be affected, it believes, by publicity about the financial problems. But V. Lindsay, the council's director, said: "We are a whole lot of people running into difficulties that are you going to do it?"

The council was asking them what they could do.

Theatres involved are re-subsidized from the Arts Council, which is worried because it has been lending the money in advance of the year's subsidies. The council cannot depend on receiving sufficient money from the Government to provide much bigger subsidies in the next financial year, and thus feels that theatres must act to cut their losses.

Two organizations are known to have received warnings from the council and in both cases it has meant closure for the theatre companies involved.

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in London has ended its theatrical programme, although its theatre building will be used by other companies; in Newcastle upon Tyne, the Tyneside Theatre Company will shut down on Saturday although it is hoped to start productions again in the autumn.

At the Royal Court one proposal from the staff has been for the Arts Council to subsidize the English Stage Company as a national theatre rather than on the same basis as regional theatres. But since most of the theatres in difficulties are in the provinces, that would not be a generally applicable plan.

## Manishin wins last game a two-point victory

Harry Golombek

Correspondent

In the last round of the Premier chess tournament at Hastings on Saturday, Manishin was already sure of prize. But he played his last game against the Yugoslav, Boris Spassky, who was still in doubt and a win by intense pressure.

Manishin was first by a margin of two points over the Yugoslav, who drew a brief game with Spassky and thus won second prize. The result is a fine achievement for Manishin, who last year won the second prize in the Hastings tournament, the section below the main prize.

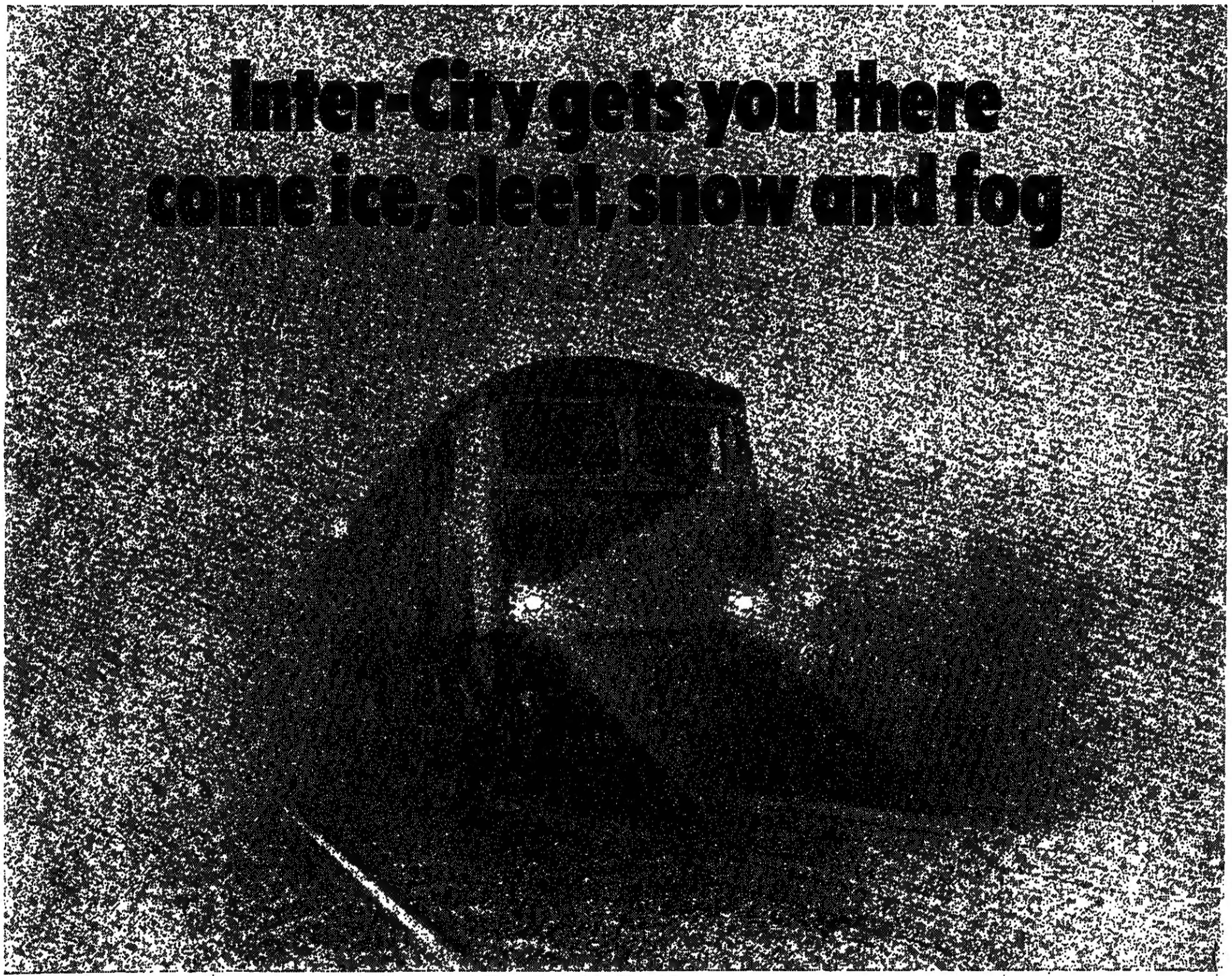
Manishin's prize went to another player, the United Kingdom grandmaster, Tarjan, who was out of form. Simon Webb

**101st birthdays**

Ellen Wilding, of Nock, Birkenhead, and Mrs. E. Byers, of Birmingham, are 101 years old. They were born on the same day, but never met, celebrated their 101st birthdays yesterday.

**Widower killed**

Mr Charles Whitbread, aged 80, a widower, was killed when an electric blanket caught fire at his home in Woburn Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire, on Saturday.



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| GLASGOW                                                                                                                                                               | 5hr       |
| MANCHESTER                                                                                                                                                            | 2hr 26min |
| LIVERPOOL                                                                                                                                                             | 2hr 31min |
| NEWCASTLE                                                                                                                                                             | 3hr 33min |
| LEEDS                                                                                                                                                                 | 2hr 29min |
| SHEFFIELD                                                                                                                                                             | 2hr 30min |
| BIRMINGHAM                                                                                                                                                            | 1hr 31min |
| BRISTOL                                                                                                                                                               | 1hr 32min |
| CARDIFF                                                                                                                                                               | 1hr 58min |
| SOUTHAMPTON                                                                                                                                                           | 1hr 10min |
| LEICESTER                                                                                                                                                             | 1hr 24min |
| PLYMOUTH                                                                                                                                                              | 3hr 42min |
| NOTTINGHAM                                                                                                                                                            | 1hr 55min |
| STOKE-ON-TRENT                                                                                                                                                        | 1hr 45min |

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the New York  
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the United  
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## Racing

# Artifice has that Schweppes sparkle

Born already pre-paid to the six-year-old's chances of running at Newbury and Wincanton, his trainer thinks that Artifice may exceed the Kempton race to put him back on top.

Artifice is joint-favourite at £6-11 with Straight Row with William Hill

The betting activity on the Cheltenham Gold Cup front over the weekend. After Summer-wick had cruised to a 10-length victory in the last year's event, the Jack Stew Handicap under 12st lbw at Ascot, his trainer Bob Turner announced that Mr Jim Hamilton would have no part as a starter at Cheltenham, provided that the going was soft. It is true that Canada Lad stole the honours from him by losing by lengths after leading by five lengths down the wire in a race facing down what Edwin Fenton, but Andrew Henderson says will be formidable opponents in any company when conditions are testing.

In anticipation of yesterday's racing, it has been laid to lose £6,000 at 33-1 by Bill's on Saturday morning and is now expected to drop to around 8-1 if the significant change concurred by

Lad who after being laid to lose £12,000 at 10-1 is now second favourite at 7-1. Jim Draper plans to run Brown Lad in the Fred Wordsworth Handicap at Leopardstown on February 19. He comes through his preparation successfully, few will want to oppose Brown Lad on Monday, March 17, though the ground reads heavy. But if the going is firm, the race will still appear wide open.

Sail on the Gold Cup scene Fred Winter plans to run both Pendlit and Lanzaote at Kempton next weekend. Fort Devon, at present unbeaten since he won the first two engaged in Pennis' erect, the Fulwell Steeplechase on Saturday, but Fuika Walwyn says that he will give up training until they wait for the Great Yorkshire Handicap the following Saturday. Last year's winner, Royal Frolic, will make his debut with a fine appearance at Wincanton on February 3, where he will meet the Devonshire hope Otter Way.

# Wolverhampton programme

## 1.15 BEWDLEY STEEPLECHASE (Div I: Novices: 5465: 3m)

|         |                  |                 |         |                |      |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------|------|
| 222-241 | Gypsy Harp       | Mr Doughty      | 7-11-0  | Mr R. Foxton   | 7    |
| 242-236 | Seardon          | K. Jones        | 10-11-0 | I. Watkinson   | 10   |
| 243-238 | Seardon          | K. Jones        | 10-11-0 | D. Evans       | 10   |
| 244-239 | Plating Exchange | Edmunds         | 7-11-0  | S. Norwood     | 10   |
| 245-240 | Seardon          | K. Jones        | 10-11-0 | D. Evans       | 10   |
| 246-241 | Isolamora        | M. Oliver       | 10-11-0 | Blackley       | 10   |
| 247-242 | Isolamora        | M. Oliver       | 10-11-0 | Mc R. Wilder   | 10   |
| 248-243 | Alminder         | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0  | D. Sunderland  | 10   |
| 0231-0  | Alminder         | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0  | D. Sunderland  | 10   |
| 00300-0 | Prince Justice   | J. Munnings     | 7-11-0  | Mr P. Munnings | 7    |
| 00301-0 | Prince Justice   | J. Munnings     | 7-11-0  | Mr P. Munnings | 7    |
| 00-01   | Shamrock Prince  | W. Phipps       | 10-11-0 | W. Phipps      | 10   |
| 00-02   | Shamrock Prince  | W. Phipps       | 10-11-0 | W. Phipps      | 10   |
| 7-4     | Guy Spout        | S. C. Collaham  | 6-11    | Gypsy Baron    | 8-1  |
|         | Seardon          | K. Jones        | 10-11-0 | Bourdon        | 12-1 |
|         | Plating Exchange | Edmunds         | 7-11-0  |                |      |

## 1.45 BEWDLEY STEEPLECHASE (Div II: Novices: 5499: 3m)

|        |          |                 |        |            |    |
|--------|----------|-----------------|--------|------------|----|
| 0-0000 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0001 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0002 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0003 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0004 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0005 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0006 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0007 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0008 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0009 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0010 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0011 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0012 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0013 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0014 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0015 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0016 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0017 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0018 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0019 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0020 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0021 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0022 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0023 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0024 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0025 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0026 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0027 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0028 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0029 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0030 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0031 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0032 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0033 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0034 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0035 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0036 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0037 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0038 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0039 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0040 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0041 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0042 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |
| 0-0043 | Alminder | L. Collingridge | 7-11-0 | S. Norwood | 10 |

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**Chess** (final): Ulfarsson 3-0, beat G. G. S. (Australia), 6-7-0.

**Athletics**

**LOS ANGELES:** 50yds: 1. S. Riddick, 6.4sec; 2. G. Goyda; 3. E. Riddick, 6.1sec; 4. J. Riddick, 6.1sec; 5. J. Smith, 6.0sec.

**100 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 13.9sec; 2. J. Riddick, 14.0sec; 3. E. Riddick, 14.1sec; 4. G. Goyda, 14.2sec; 5. S. Riddick, 14.3sec.

**200 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 27.7 sec; 2. J. Riddick, 27.8 sec; 3. E. Riddick, 27.9 sec; 4. G. Goyda, 28.0 sec; 5. S. Riddick, 28.1 sec.

**400 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 57.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 57.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 57.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 57.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 57.4 min.

**800 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 1:15.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 1:15.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 1:15.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 1:15.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 1:15.4 min.

**1,600 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 2:30.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 2:30.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 2:30.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 2:30.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 2:30.4 min.

**3,200 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 5:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 5:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 5:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 5:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 5:00.4 min.

**6,400 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 10:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 10:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 10:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 10:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 10:00.4 min.

**12,800 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 20:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 20:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 20:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 20:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 20:00.4 min.

**25,600 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 40:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 40:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 40:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 40:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 40:00.4 min.

**51,200 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 80:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 80:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 80:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 80:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 80:00.4 min.

**102,400 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 160:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 160:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 160:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 160:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 160:00.4 min.

**204,800 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 320:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 320:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 320:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 320:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 320:00.4 min.

**409,600 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 640:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 640:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 640:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 640:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 640:00.4 min.

**819,200 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 1280:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 1280:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 1280:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 1280:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 1280:00.4 min.

**1,638,400 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 2560:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 2560:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 2560:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 2560:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 2560:00.4 min.

**3,276,800 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 5120:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 5120:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 5120:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 5120:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 5120:00.4 min.

**6,553,600 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 10240:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 10240:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 10240:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 10240:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 10240:00.4 min.

**13,107,200 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 20480:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 20480:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 20480:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 20480:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 20480:00.4 min.

**26,214,400 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 40960:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 40960:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 40960:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 40960:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 40960:00.4 min.

**52,428,800 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 81920:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 81920:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 81920:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 81920:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 81920:00.4 min.

**104,857,600 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 163840:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 163840:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 163840:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 163840:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 163840:00.4 min.

**209,715,200 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 327680:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 327680:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 327680:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 327680:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 327680:00.4 min.

**419,430,400 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 655360:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 655360:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 655360:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 655360:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 655360:00.4 min.

**838,860,800 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 1310720:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 1310720:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 1310720:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 1310720:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 1310720:00.4 min.

**1,677,721,600 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 2621440:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 2621440:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 2621440:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 2621440:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 2621440:00.4 min.

**3,355,443,200 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 5242880:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 5242880:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 5242880:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 5242880:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 5242880:00.4 min.

**6,710,886,400 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 10485760:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 10485760:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 10485760:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 10485760:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 10485760:00.4 min.

**13,421,772,800 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 20971520:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 20971520:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 20971520:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 20971520:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 20971520:00.4 min.

**26,843,545,600 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 41943040:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 41943040:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 41943040:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 41943040:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 41943040:00.4 min.

**53,687,091,200 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 83886080:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 83886080:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 83886080:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 83886080:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 83886080:00.4 min.

**107,374,182,400 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 167772160:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 167772160:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 167772160:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 167772160:00.3 min; 5. S. Riddick, 167772160:00.4 min.

**214,748,364,800 yds:** 1. J. Smith, 335544320:00.0 min; 2. J. Riddick, 335544320:00.1 min; 3. E. Riddick, 335544320:00.2 min; 4. G. Goyda, 335544320:00.3 min; 5. S.

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## The EEC is exclusive club, but should it be open to all comers?

**Would new entrants with weak economies be able to implement laws of the Community?**

acceptance would strengthen democratic forces in Greece.

Messrs Edwards and Wainwright bring out vividly the imstrain which enlargement would impose both on an informed Common Agricultural Policy and on the interregional and social funds. They are sceptical about the prospects of trade liberalization to developed economies.

They fear, with evident justification, that enlargement would make both the Common Market and the Community more inefficient and unwieldy, and capable of finding and using on measures relevant to such diverse members.

Enlargement, as they say, would also bring on a greater dilution of the EEC coherence, or hasten a reappraisal of common goals.

Doubting the pious notion that membership necessarily underwrite democracy, they wonder how the EEC would respond to the approach of "new" norms in a member: No machinery for expurgation exists. Would the press intervene to maintain or establish democracy by whistleblowing? Would it advocate a severe score-settling and severely stress administration be able to implement Community law?

The blessed autocrats whose  
commands save life

and methods of administering aid which have appeared in the *Washington Post*. The ambassador was incensed at what he took to be an insult, so he walked out.

Besotted by this time by the sun and the sunbathers,

Jim no doubt recalled that this area not long ago was the centre of the wall poster campaign on behalf of the dissident Gee Day Vix.

Jim no doubt recalled that this area not long ago was the centre of the wall poster campaign on behalf of the dissident Gee Day Vix.

Wider Europe, by G. Harris, published by Fabian Society, 11 Dartmouth St., London, SW1, 50p.

der Var, our Bonn Correspondent, succeeded in getting through to Kohout for an interview. That was on Monday. But when he tried to speak to him again on Tuesday it was apparent that his

## A bit of bother in the isle of sun

this ceaseless whirl of inactivity, they were mostly cancelled as the result of one of the PR squad's meetings or another. To the relief of the British contingent of seven, all of whom had pointed out that the British were to bring their tennis rackets, a mooted tennis tournament was the first casualty.

A meeting with the newly elected Prime Minister of Barbados, Sir C. G. Tom, was also went by the board. So did a "fun cruise aboard the pirate ship Jolly Roger" which, we were assured, would only have been cancelled had there been excessive amounts of rum in any case.


We all had high hopes of the event we had been flown thousands of miles to witness and indeed had been given an extension to Sam Lord's Castle, a luxury hotel on the windward swept eastern coast of the island. Sam Lord's belongs to an American company, Marjorie Lord's, whose reputation is for grand openings with a difference. Their previous exploits had included a sky-

diver plunging from the tentacles of their Amsterdam hotel, a lion escaping among the audience at a resort near Chicago, and a trained dolphin cutting the ribbon at their hotel in London.

Sam Lord's really is a curious tale—a two-bed-roomed turritid colonial mansion built by a Barbadian plantation owner whose flamboyant reputation wins him fame as a playboy. The Barbadian gallery of rogues and scoundrels he is supposed to have been plundering buccaneer, wrecker, a murderer, an embezzler and a fraud, and also a man so incurably drunk that he wrote his own grotesque English while in the dungeon which now serves the general manager as an office.

Whether much of this historical foundation is doubtful, the Barbadian story is the protection of the Barbados National Trust, and houses the paintings by Reynolds, Raeburn and others, the furniture of the Sheraton and Coppin families, and a rather battered blood cabinet which is claimed to have belonged to the Empress Josephine. Sam Lord is supposed to have plundered the wreck from wrecks of ships lured on to the coral reefs by lantern tied to the coconut palms, or the cows' horns or goats' tails, or the bones beneath the castle.

Marion's course for the grand opening of the new extension in the castle grounds



**MSDC**  
THIS WATER IS  
UNSUITABLE  
FOR DRINKING  
PURPOSES

*These signs, bringing divinity  
at Fulking, Sussex, by Mrs C.*

THE SENEDETH SPRING  
INTO THE VALLEYS  
WHICH RUN AMONG  
THE HILLS  
THAT MEN WOULD  
PRAISE THE LORD  
FOR HIS GOODNESS

ing down to earth, were photographed  
Raines of Norwich.

coming back to see what  
they had done, did you?"  
Sam, we did not. Not for  
moment.

Innocuous and trivial  
these celebrations might appear,  
they did manage to spark a  
diplomatic incident. In the  
liminaries to the grand open-  
ing master of ceremonies called  
on various people to take a bite  
including the visiting presi-  
dent even the general's young  
mother. But he omitted to in-  
duce by name the American  
ambassador to Barbados, The  
dore Britton Jar.

Britton is none too popu-  
lar on the island, where he is  
named the Ugly American, as  
he is generally reckoned to  
be ripe for recall following so

and methods of administration which have appeared in *Washington Post*. The ambassador was incensed at what took to be an insult, so he walked out.

Besotted by this time, the sun and the rum punches, the American reporters soon noticed Britain's departure. The first that the Americans saw was when they got their copy of the local paper next morning.

## An Dee

P. H. Simplicesverkr, my British analyst, writes:

Nine months after we were power from the disgraced Sun, the new leader Sun Jim moved last week to cement his authority. In a desperate, he wrested control of the country from the industry from the discredited Lee and his henchman War.

It is hoped that the new leader will have the effect of quelling the disturbance which has rent the country in recent weeks. Sun Nee Jim himself made a personal visit on Friday to the most troubled area—Wa Ping, a large industrial junction East of London. It is near where the so-called "Metropolitan Line" runs North-South route out of the capital—linking the "Central East-West" District Line.

Control of these lines is considered could cripple

Jim no doubt recalled the area not long ago was the site of the wall poster campaign on behalf of the dissident Dan Zeng.

These moves must be in conjunction with the dispute over the appointment of An Dee, a product of a cultural revolution in the 1970s. Western leaders of the party's youth controller. Demonstrations against him rent the party praesidium. He is receiving powerful backing from the "allies of Four"—To Ne Ben, Ma Jo Nmae Nard, He Fer "dragon woman" Jo Di Sun Nee Jim is known as the "boss" in the party, as do many of the party functionaries. His key to his future could be won by Wi Lee Ron, the general secretary and another of the "allies of Four." Friends of Ron said he, in the terms of the Confucian proverb, "waiting to see how the tiger leaps" was declaring himself.

## Multilingual

On Friday The Times carried a front-page report that Czech authorities had called the telephone at the home of Pavel Kohout, the playwright. Kohout is prominent in Czechoslovakia's new civil rights movement, which has incurred official disfavor.

at this centre campaign to get Gee

seen open ment of the the as the demon- have a, but back- the Gangs dame and Th. to any of the held party erst- Dea. the Cucusian which before

ied a the e the echno- moved

der Vat, our Bonn Corre- dent, succeeded in get- through to Kobour for interview. That was or- day. But when he tr- speak to him again on the phone was apparent that n- pher was already being f- fered with.

After countless vain at- to get through, van de- finally heard the receiver lifted. "A strange voice "Hallo". He asked for "Hans". He asked for "Hans" and was told in German that he was not there. (At the playwight was being re- dered at police headqu-

Van smother weather he English. The reply (in man) was in the negative asked him if he spoke Ge- and received a negative response, this time in English. The respondent then said, in man, "only French Russian." Knowing no Ru- man tried French, and the respondent said that was not available at (number). He gave up.

A Crownborough reader has covered one of the weirdest sequences of metacommunication. A familiar size 10 shoe needs, she finds, half the length it is supposed to be. The allegedly simplified size becomes size 33.

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THE SENEDETH SPRINGS  
INTO THE VALLEYS  
WHICH RUN AMONG  
THE HILLS  
OR THAT MEN WOULD  
PRAISE THE LORD

These signs, bringing divinity down to earth, were photographed at Fulking, Sussex, by Mrs C. Raines of Norwich.

and methods of administering aid which have appeared in the *Washington Post*. The ambassador was incensed at what he took to be an insult, so he walked out.

Besotted by this time by the sun and the rum punches, none of the American reporters present noticed Britton's departure. The first they knew about it was when they got their copies of the local paper next morning.

# An Dee

P. H. Simplessverk, my British affairs analyst, writes:

Nine months after wresting power from the disgraced Willy, the new leader Sun Nee Jim moved last week to cement his authority. In a daring coup, he wrested control of the nation's finance and industry from the hands of Lee Dee and his henchman Var Lee.

It is hoped that the move will have the effect of quelling the disturbances which have rent the country in recent weeks. Sun Nee Jim himself made a personal visit on Friday to one of the most troubled areas, the district of the railway junction east of London, to appear where the so-called "Metropolitan Line" — the north-South route out of the city — has been hit with the crucial rail strike.

Control of these lines by the "District" was a possibility could cripple London.

Jim no doubt recalled that this area not long ago was the centre of the wall poster campaign on behalf of the dissident Gee Day Vix.

These moves must be seen in conjunction with the open dispute over the appointment of An Dee, a product of the cultural revolution in the distant Western regions, as the party's youth controller. Demonstrations against him have

rent the party praesidium, but he is receiving powerful backing from the so-called "Gang of Five"—Ben Madam, Jo Nmae Nard, He Fer and "dragon woman" Jo Di Thart. Sun Nee Jim is known to oppose An Dee, as do many of the party's cadres. The key to his future could be held by Wi Lee Ron, the party's general secretary and an erstwhile supporter of An Dee. The "Gang of Five" is, in the terms of the Confucian proverb, "waiting to see which way the tiger leaps" before declaring himself.

## Multilingual

On Friday *The Times* carried a front-page report that Czech authorities had cut off the telephone at the home of Pavel Kohout, the playwright. Kohout is prominent in Czechoslovakia's new civil rights movement, which has incurred the official disfavor of the

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After countless vain attempts to get through, van der Meer finally heard the receiver b

fied. A strange voice  
 "Hallo". He asked for Kol  
 and was told that (in Germa  
 ) he was not there. (At the t  
 ) the playwright was being i  
 ) rogated at police headquar  
 ) Van der Vat asked the  
 ) speaker whether he s  
 ) thought the English (the  
 ) (man) was in the negative.  
 ) Asked him if he spoke Ger  
 ) and received a negative r  
 ) again, this time in French.  
 ) The respondent then said, "I  
 ) know", "only French."  
 ) "Russian" knowing no Rus  
 ) man tried French, and he  
 ) told (in German) that Kol  
 ) was not available, in a  
 ) number. He gave up.

Crowborough reader has  
 ) covered one of the weird  
 ) quences of metrification.  
 ) similar size 10 <sup>unit</sup>  
 ) reads, she finds, have  
 ) e allegedly simplified sys  
 ) come size 33.

[illegible]

مَكْنَزُ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234.

## A FIGURE IN HISTORY

How much is the world going to regret the departure of Dr Kissinger from the State Department? He has been one of the most remarkable men ever to hold high office in the United States. Almost single-handed he has managed American foreign policy through eight years of turbulence and demoralization, through the withdrawal from Vietnam, Watergate, the Middle East war, the oil crisis, a worldwide recession, the resignation of Nixon and the defeat of Mr Ford. His absence will take some time to be felt. The first crisis at hand to be solved without him will measure the width of the hole he leaves.

History is likely to give him a mixed verdict. His talents are not disputed, nor his dedication to a pursuit of peace. He brought greater depth of thought to the job than most of his predecessors. He was acclimatised to the energy with which he pursued the policy, and the high hopes he inspired. He seemed often very close to snatching a major settlement from the brink of crisis.

Throughout the Watergate affair he performed one of the most difficult tasks in the conduct of any nation's foreign policy: to preserve the Government's authority abroad when it has lost authority at home. The decline of fall of President Nixon might have been accompanied by the collapse of American influence and interest in the outside world. That this did not happen was most entirely Dr Kissinger's personal achievement. His presence was such, both with the leaders of other countries and with the American public, that he was able to maintain the authority of the State Department at a time of international well-being and domestic crisis. He was the point of stability when else was disintegrating around him. For that alone he could deserve to be judged well history.

## Appalling shadow

Nevertheless, for a man who worked so hard for world order and left behind him little that is solid and lasting. Starting with a grand conception he ended as a harassed fireman with a short hose. It is impossible to know what he could have achieved if so much of the ground he did not crumble beneath his feet. If Mr Nixon had retained his authority, if Congress had not broken him, if the oil crisis or some other constellation of power had prevailed in Moscow, it is hard to see how Dr Kissinger was unlucky he was so flawed.

He got the United States into Vietnam but at great cost in blood and treasure. He had to be in to be crying for an orderly element, which was probably possible and perhaps he did gain negotiating skills by bombing Hanoi, but a sense of awkward questions remain. As for the secret bombing and political destruction

of Cambodia, not even negotiating points can justify this. It remains an appalling shadow across his record, a savage and pointless misuse of power against a small and fragile country.

In the Middle East he achieved a fragile partial settlement after the 1973 war, and the world was properly grateful, but nagging doubts remain that he might have won a more comprehensive settlement, or that the war itself might have been avoided. In American diplomacy he had been active earlier. In Africa neglect also led to crisis, and then to being outmanoeuvred in Angola. Now the fragile outline of a Rhodesian settlement looks threatened by the partial deception with which it was achieved.

But Dr Kissinger's central concern was the balance among the great powers. He arranged the long overdue opening to China, which remains a lasting contribution even if severely limited by the unsentimental problem of Taiwan. He also achieved a new level of understanding with the Soviet Union. He saw rightly that the Soviet Union was emerging as a global power and that the United States could not rely only on straightforward military containment. His aim was to manage and contain the emerging power, to restrain it with interlocking arrangements, and to try to educate the ruling elite towards more responsible and informed attitudes.

He seemed to be succeeding for a while, with the first SALT agreement, the rise in Jewish emigration, and the important Soviet decision to expose itself to world trade and to give high priority to relations with the United States. Of course the Soviet position was tactical in the sense that the Russians could not abandon their revolutionary ideology, but they did seem ready for a breathing space which could provide openings for western policy and for the encouragement of westerners within the Soviet Union.

There are probably three main reasons why hopes are now more restrained. The hopes were raised higher than justified because of the need to sell détente to American public opinion. The weakening of the West after the oil crisis probably encouraged those in the Soviet leadership who had always chafed under the restraints that détente was supposed to impose. And there were basic differences between the two concepts of détente which were never sufficiently admitted. President Nixon's policy statement of May, 1973, spoke of "a stable structure" and of the dangers of manoeuvring for advantage. The Russians never endorsed stability. They insisted openly and consistently that peaceful coexistence imposed no obligation to freeze the political or social status quo or to withdraw support for "wars of liberation".

While it is to be hoped that the Russians are wrong about the direction in which history is flowing they are right to regard the world as a fluid and changing

place, influenced as much by struggles for freedom, justice and economic equality as by the deployment of military force. Perhaps Dr Kissinger strove too hard for stability. With his early memories of the breakdown of Germany he believed order to be more important than justice, and this may have blinded him to many of the pressures that drive events. For instance, he ignored warnings on how black Africa would react to the South African invasion of Angola, and he failed entirely to appreciate the European desire to make respect for human rights a condition of détente in Europe, so that he pressed impatiently—and unfortunately in vain—for a quick agreement that would have given the Russians most of what they wanted.

## Hard to follow

Altogether his hopes for a world order managed by the five main centres of power have come little nearer realization. Conflicts of interest between the Soviet Union and the United States have proved too acute, though perhaps milder than before. The other power centres are unredeemed by the burden, and the countries allotted subordinate roles are not willing to accept them. The world has not measured up to Dr Kissinger's expectations. It is swept by feelings for which he has little sympathy and by forces which are insufficiently responsive to his reasoned approach and to the earlier political example or the military power of the United States.

He has been brilliant but limited, open in the exposition of his policy but deceitful in its execution, understanding towards adversaries while impatient with allies, persuasive with foreign statesmen but unable to win the sympathy or support of his own Congress—a failure that has cost him dear. His act will be in some ways very hard to follow, but less so if the new Administration learns from his mistakes, rebuilds a State Department shaken by his frequent ignoring of its advice and by-passing of its procedures, restores relations with Congress, takes a wider view of what makes the world go round, and above all finds ways to restore America's appeal to the nobler hopes and emotions of mankind.

It has been Dr Kissinger's tragedy that he had to operate from a capital without moral power or political cohesion. In such circumstances a strong figure was necessary and Dr Kissinger provided one. A mediocrity in the State Department through such an era could have left a vacuum in American foreign policy that would have been infinitely more difficult than the one he now inherits. Dr Kissinger could have done better, but someone else could have done much worse. It is usually better to have a great man in a great position, and whatever his errors of judgment, or his failures, Dr Kissinger is one of the great American statesmen of the twentieth century.

not been completed until 6.30 am on Tuesday, and foreign journalists showed resentment that they were served with only an English text. It made an unfortunate start.

Worse lay in store. When the press of the Nine entered their gallery they found the protocol department had labelled every seat with the name of an ambassador. Attendees who tried to order reporters out of their "tribune" were warned that the press could be removed only by physical force and that Mr Jenkins's speech would scarcely compete for newspaper space with the consequential scandal. In the end, though, the atmosphere was one of tense, and I am not at all sure that I did not stand in, or at least sit in, for the ambassador for Uganda. Perhaps General Amin will remember me in his honour's list.

Mr Jenkins doubtless had no knowledge that his announced plan to control the Commission's relations with the press, instead of leaving it to individual commissioners, had so soon and so clumsily been put at risk, much to the dismay of his very experienced press adviser (formerly of the Foreign Office), and the infuriated press secretary who was with him. He had less excuse, however, when he faced French television interviewers and refused, it was said, to utter even a few sentences in French. "His French, you know," commented some of his candid friends in the United Kingdom delegation, "is really not very good." Such French linguists as we have in the United Kingdom delegation added a cubit to their own stature by lopping a cubit off Mr Jenkins's.

In all other respects, the debuts of Mr Jenkins and Mr Crosland went as well as could be hoped. Neither managed a delivery worthy of his theme. Mr Jenkins, flanked by his 12 Commissioners (only three of them needed to listen to English interpretation by headphones), looked and sounded nervous, perhaps because he is still adjusting to the new role of speaking not for himself or a government, but as an international politician, and civil servant. What he said was nicely judged for audience and occasion, but he lacked some of the authority of style that his well-wishers expected.

Mr Crosland forgot Aneurin Bevan's dictum that one fact makes a good speech, and one and a half

facts may ruin it. He raced through a text (foreign translations supplied) running to 28 pages of type-script to keep within his timetable, so that there were no lights and no hands know delivery of a speech to an international assembly is of scant importance. Most of the audience listens through the voice of a glass encased interpreter, who may flatten the theme, change the emphasis, or reduce a lofty thought and peroration to bathos by suddenly pausing to grope for the exact word that does not necessarily exist.

Nevertheless, Mr Crosland's speech had an inherent importance that all delegations in the Parliament recognized. It had been cleared in outline with the Cabinet, or at least with senior Cabinet ministers, and also with the Labour delegation, with its mixed membership of pro- and anti-membership MPs. It had also obviously been fitted from the editorial position of Sir Donald MacLennan, the United Kingdom Ambassador to the Commission, who was always in the background when he was not actually at the Foreign Secretary's right hand.

Apart from the content of Mr Crosland's speech which had a wholly characteristic British pragmatic tone insofar as he argued that the Community must deal with practical problems as they now exist, the test for the Eight of his presidency during the next six months will be whether he can persuade the Labour Government to take the plunge for direct elections to the European Parliament during May or June 1978. That means a Bill must be presented by about the end of February and carried to Royal Assent by July.

No Bill could hope to resolve all the domestic controversy about where the campaign money is coming from, how our European constituencies are to be drawn, and whether some form of proportional representation will be adopted. At least the United Kingdom delegation in Luxembourg had it from that the United Kingdom parliamentary boundary commissions have already assured the Government that immediately after second reading they will proceed to mapping boundaries so that the date can be met. If Mr Crosland fails in that, he will disprove every political friend Britain has in the Community.

## The government of Ulster

From Mr Paul McGuire

Sir, Seventy-seven out of 78 members of the Northern Ireland Convention supported a return to devolved government for the province. By any standards, a high level of agreement. Yet that agreement appears to have been placed aside in Westminster in recent days. Placed aside in favour of what? The answer appears to be in favour of either naked Westminster rule—Secretary of State Mason's positive direct rule—or disguised Westminster rule—the Moyneaux-Powell plan for administrative devolution. Yet can be forgiven for thinking that Westminster rule was an appropriate and democratic form of government for the province.

The reality, however, is quite different. The evidence afforded by direct rule 1972-77 shows that the form of Westminster rule for the province is both inappropriate and undemocratic. Inappropriate in a region with a modern tradition of legislative and executive devolution and undemocratic on at least three counts. Northern Ireland is grossly under-represented at Westminster (on average, a Northern Ireland MP has 22,000 more constituents than his English equivalent). Westminster is unable to devote enough resources to Northern Ireland's regional affairs. And the process for enacting Northern Irish legislation is unsatisfactory. For example, MPs cannot amend Northern Irish legislation without the consent of the Northern Ireland Executive, which is in the form of Orders in Council.

On this showing, it is difficult to see how Westminster rule, naked or disguised, admittedly the second preference of many but the first preference of few, can become the first preference of many. For the time being, the restoration of devolved government must remain as Ulster's first preference and in Northern Ireland terms this means legislative and executive devolution. Yours sincerely, PAUL R. MAGUIRE.

The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast. January 10.

From Mr David Morrison

Sir, In your editorial "Politics in Abeyance" (January 5), you say of James Moynaux's proposals for administrative devolution: "The idea has obvious merits, but it falls like other schemes, for lack of sufficient support across Ulster's communal divide."

By this I assume you mean that the SDLP do not support the idea. I suggest that there are criteria other than the SDLP's approval which should be applied to the proposals. For example, what is best for the good government of Northern Ireland.

Your editorial does not mention the fact that many matters, such as housing, education and planning, which are administered by locally elected authorities in Great Britain, are subject to the same local democratic control in Northern Ireland, and in so far as administrative decisions in these areas are subject to any democratic control at all, it is by the House of Commons.

This state of affairs is central to the argument for administrative devolution in Northern Ireland and no one, not even the SDLP, could deny that good government would be furthered by its achievement.

The SDLP's objection to it is, as John Hume told your correspondent on December 18, that it is "integrationist" and that it is "the last thing the SDLP want". The only reasonable conclusion is drawn from this is that the SDLP are more interested in keeping Northern Ireland at arm's length from the United Kingdom (presumably so that it may be the more easily detached at some time in the future) than they are in the good government of Northern Ireland.

Might I suggest that sooner or later the Parliament of the United Kingdom will have to choose between pleasing the SDLP and governing Northern Ireland well. Yours, etc. DAVID MORRISON, Belfast 15. January 9.

## Press Council rulings

From the Chairman of the Press Council

Sir, The letter from Mr Wicks (January 14) betrays some confusion. Not on my part. My letter of January 7 dealt solely with the complete error of fact upon which the Press Council has ruled in regard to the case of Mrs Colquhoun was based.

So far as concerns the general points raised by Mr Wicks it is sufficient to say that, contrary to his assertion, the Press Council does provide redress to private individuals whose right of privacy is invaded by the press. The Council has issued a general declaration on the matter, widely publicized, for the information of the public and the guidance of journalists.

Where an individual establishes a breach of the guidelines so laid down, the journalist and editor concerned will be publicly condemned and have to publish that condemnation. Although what Mr Wicks calls "a rap across the knuckles" by the press may be a matter of indifference to a politician, it is not so to a journalist. "Although," said Lord Gardiner's Committee on Terrorism in Northern Ireland, the Press Council possesses only the power to censor... Newspapers are in fact highly sensitive of such action from their peers." The Press Council has every confidence that its declaration will be used by the Younger Committee on Privacy "respectfully, obeyed and feared."

It is perhaps unlikely that any journalist will seek to invade Mr Wicks' privacy, but should any such event unhappily occur, Mr Wicks must come to us! Yours sincerely, BARTLEY SHAWCROSS, 1 Salisbury Square, E.C.4. January 14.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The buying of second homes

From Mr Peter Jackson

Sir, The issue of "second home" ownership is indeed more complex than Mrs Sue Heaton seems to realize. Her letter (*The Times*, January 11) confuses an important point.

As she points out, potential second home owners are not just interested in buying houses but also "barns, stables, churches, windmills, shepherds' huts." This surely weakens her subsequent contention that "active Cumbrians" cannot afford to buy houses because they have been priced out of the market by self-indulgent outsiders.

The sort of property she lists would not be sought by local married couples. Young families and other rural residents need property which is immediately habitable, provided with electricity, water, mains drainage, and ready access to shops, schools, and often to public transport.

Second home owners are generally more affluent and the material content of the property is relatively unimportant. Apart from the financial incentive of improving their property as a form of investment, large numbers of second home owners seem to enjoy renovating near-dilapidated property for their recreational use (thus incidentally improving the quality of the region's housing stock, and helping to preserve the visual amenity and character of the area).

Greater personal mobility allows second home buyers to purchase property in fairly remote rural areas, which are not generally attractive to rural residents because of the absence of essential services, employment, etc. The prior existence of inexpensive empty or derelict cottages in these areas was one of the main factors which encouraged the present expansion of second home ownership.

The recent proliferation of second homes in popular recreational areas does indeed warrant prompt and intelligent investigation. But it should already be apparent that the construction of new second homes is often exaggerated. The available evidence (in, for example, the report published in 1972 by a team from Wye College) indicates that the benefits of second home ownership are by no means exclusively one-sided.

Yours faithfully, PETER JACKSON, Keeble College, Oxford.

From Mr Robert Robinson

Sir, In her interesting letter (January 11) suggesting that non-

### Burglar alarms

From Mrs Carol Angier

Sir, Some time ago we read in your columns of the plague of burglar alarms which are set off by electrical faults and ring needlessly for hours. Your correspondent has been happily complacent of the disturbance they suffered in this way. But I do not recall that anyone raised the question: are these alarms ever set off by burglars? And if so, how can we tell the difference?

A few days ago I was in Oxford Central Library when the fire alarm bell began to ring. Some of the library staff telephoned each other, evidently to check the genuineness of the alarm; others ignored it entirely, and were followed in this by members of the public. One gentleman—I trust a staff member—removed a piece of the sprinkler apparatus, remarking

### Freedom and use of force

From the Rev George Austin

Sir, Those of us who have listened with the Rev Paul Oestreicher from time to time in debates in the General Synod of the Church of England and the Assembly of the British Council of Churches will be surprised at neither the tone nor the content of his attack on the views expressed by Lord Chalfont and the Dean of Rochester (Letters, January 11).

As the tone, Mr Oestreicher would do well to learn that those who dare to dissent from his view are not always fools and vagabonds, and that to assume they must be is to take a considerable step along the path that leads the Russians to incarcerate the Bukovskis in this world in mental institutions.

His views on the possession by the West of a nuclear deterrent are equally and usually oversimplified, yet the innocent victim of nuclear annihilation is only as dead as the innocent victim of a terrorist bomb. If Mr Oestreicher continues to oppose those like myself who have consistently and responsibly given by church organizations to violent revolutionary movements, is it not he who can be charged with hypocrisy? Does he really believe that the people of Mozambique have more of the freedom of which he speaks so much under the present Marxist regime than the people of Mozambique who support to SWAPO in the "liberation" of Namibia, will its people, black, brown and white, enjoy the freedom which this brings? I am

### Armenians in Turkey

From Mr Timothy S. Hindle

Sir, Edward Mortimer writes in *The Times* of January 11 with reference to the persecuted Armenians "Now that the Kurds themselves are beginning to give a nationalist expression to their grievances there is clearly a grave risk that they, in turn, will bring down on them the wrath of the Turkish state, which has a very low tolerance threshold for internal national particularism."

I wonder what are his grounds for making this statement. My mother-in-law is Greek Orthodox, my father-in-law is Jewish and some of my wife's best friends are Armenians. They all live in Istanbul. On my frequent visits to that city I find that there is a remarkable harmony between the different sects of its population. I cannot venture for remote rural areas but there Istanbul does account for a very large proportion of the population

of Cumbria should be deprived of their houses, Mrs Sue Heaton rightly implies that to be under the impression you are talking to "a naive Cumbrian" only to discover that he is a member of the middle classes after all, can be a very nasty shock.

No trip to the Lakeland paradise is complete, Mrs Heaton suggests, unless we can rely on being "surrounded by natives of the fells." Though it is comparatively rare for the native Cumbrian to paint himself blue these days, with a little practice it should still be possible to single out the aboriginal; if he is unable to offer you a cream tea, a mystery tour, or a small poker-work motto, be sure you have got a wrong 'un.

When Mrs Heaton has got the non-natives out of their second houses, I trust she will turn her attention to the even more vexed question of the first house. I myself have known people born in Aberystwyth who actually had the impudence to buy a house in Cheshire. When will it all end?

Yours faithfully, ROBERT ROBINSON, 16 Cheyne Row, SW3.

From Mr C. D. Mann

Sir, I wonder if Miss Heaton's experience of the "ghost village" (Letters, January 11) can really be paralleled elsewhere? My own miniature home is a rebuilt cottage in the Marches. In my small valley, in which I count four households as relatives, the situation was that in the period between the wars and up to the late 1960s the number of habitable cottages dropped from 17 to 11.

Four cottages have recently been renovated and part reconstructed in keeping with the countryside, one is derelict but is likely to be revived and of the other nothing but the hearthstone remains. The valley is in fact coming back to life. The cottages that remained empty for 10 or 20 years did so because they were primitive, small, had no services and nobody wanted to live in them.

A great deal of effort and imagination has gone into the reconstruction of our valley. I have never been conscious of resentment on the part of the natives towards the newcomers, be they weekend or week long residents, only perhaps a little resentment on occasion when hedges have been laid "against the sap." Indeed normally there has been a deal of interest in the various activities and satisfaction in seeing "old Jones's" cottage coming back to life.

Yours faithfully, C. D. MANN, International Hall, Brunswick Square, WC1.

that this would stop the bell ringing, which it did.

By this time several minutes had passed. In normal circumstances (those in which a fire alarm indicates a fire), this might be too long. I can assure that the staff and users of the Oxford Library, as well as the inhabitants of city centres, are representative of all of us in their distrust of electrical alarm systems. But surely this fact greatly diminishes the value of such systems.

Can you, Sir, propose a remedy? I hesitate to suggest that we adopt two sorts of alarm bell, one for electrical faults and one for the real thing.

Yours faithfully, CAROLE ANGIER, Holly Cottage, Shipton Road, Ascot-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire.

sure his Czechoslovakian friends could answer the better than I can. And as a result of his recent visit to South Africa, will he accept the sincerity and integrity of the moderates, both black and white, or does he dismiss them as "puppets" and confine his support and encouragement to the extremists whose policies could bring world suffering and violence to that country?

The indications are that the Communist world's present targets are the rich and the countries of southern Africa to add to its crown. Would Mr Oestreicher advocate a new policy of appeasement by the Free World whereby they and their peoples were allowed to slip without a whimper into a new and viler oppression? We are surely entitled to ask Mr Oestreicher to put all his cards on the table. Just for once.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE AUSTIN, 10 High Road, Bushey Heath, Watford, Hertfordshire.

From the Rev G. L. Russell

Sir, Why is it that Mr Oestreicher believes that "liberation movements" are right to use arms to attain their freedom but we are wrong to use them to defend our own?

Yours etc. GILBERT RUSSELL, The Rectory, Bentley, Farnham, Surrey.

### A European Foundation

From Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, MP for Hexham (Conservative)

Sir, You have rightly applauded the good European speech made by the Foreign Secretary to the European Parliament (leading article, January 14). History has indeed proved the Treaty of Rome, the founding charter of the European Community to be, as Mr Crosland acknowledged, a well conceived act of statesmanship. The support for a directly elected Parliament for the enlargement of the Community and for its future development makes an encouraging start to his Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

More, however, will be needed than fine words if a new sense of purpose is to be achieved. To maintain momentum, as I found when I was negotiating for Britain's entry into the Community, it is frequently helpful when deadlocked on difficult issues to take the opportunity to make progress in some less controversial direction. A better atmosphere in which to resolve agricultural, fishing and energy problems with a fair balance of mutual advantage might well be generated if Britain were to take some relatively modest initiatives in other fields.

It seems to me that a very appropriate way to mark the twentieth anniversary on March 25 of the signing of the Treaty of Rome would be to launch a European Foundation, on the lines recommended in Mr Henderson's Report, to be financed partly by grants from the member states and partly from private funds. The aim would be to promote either directly or by assisting existing bodies anything which will help towards greater understanding in the Community and placing the emphasis on human contacts such as youth activities, university exchanges, town twinnings and the like.

Since our ultimate objective is to enlarge the Community and to widen the unity of Europe such an initiative might well be linked with advantage to the work of the Council of Europe. Various recommendations for expanding European cultural activities were made by representatives of the 22 European countries who attended the Oslo Conference last June. The Council of Cultural Co-operation of the Council of Europe is to meet at the end of this month to consider its programme for 1977 and a positive British contribution would be welcomed.

It is a matter of regret that the Government have seen fit to withdraw even the most basic information previously available to support many of these activities. Now is the time when they can reinforce in a practical way Mr Crosland's reassurances about Britain's future attitude to European affairs.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY RIPPON, House of Commons, January 14.

### Release of Abu Daoud

From the Duke of Devonshire, and others

Sir, There are occasions when ordinary people are so outraged by the conduct of individuals or of governments that they are filled with despair by the ineffectiveness of their fellow men.

Such an occasion is the release of Abu Daoud. It is with both profound sorrow and deep and lasting anger that we, the undersigned, express our view of this shocking affair.

Yours faithfully, DEVONSHIRE, President of the Conservative Friends of Israel, JEREMY THORPE, Foreign Affairs spokesman of the Liberal Party, MAURICE MILLER, Secretary, Parliamentary Branch, Labour Friends of Israel, Palace of Westminster, SW1. January 13.

### Mr Smith's intentions

From Mr Harold MacCarthy

Sir, The *Johnnesburg Star* reports your diplomatic correspondent writing: "It is being reluctantly conceded in Whitehall that whatever Mr Smith seemed to have agreed to in his historic broadcast last September—when he accepted the Kissinger plan—he has now changed his mind."

One is past being appalled, stunned or indignant at the mendacity of a large section of the British press when commenting on white government in Southern Africa, so that this latest blatant example does not surprise one.

The smudge whatever Mr Smith seemed to have agreed to... You know, David Spaxler knows and the world knows that Mr Smith didn't "seem" anything. He agreed specifically to the terms of the agreement. He was acclaimed for this surrender.

He went to Geneva to discuss it, and can you cite any evidence to show that he has deviated from it? In fact he has been attacked for not deviating from it. It was the black delegates who refused at the outset to discuss it and rejected its terms in toto.

The clamour is for majority rule in Rhodesia. The front line states back Niko-Mugabe who refuse to hold a one man, one vote election. They know they would lose it to the bishop. Where is your diplomatic correspondent's comments on this blatant hypocrisy? Yours, etc. HAROLD MACCARTHY, PO Box 4258, Johannesburg. January 10.

### Winter blooms

From Mr G. H. Osborn

Sir, What a wonderful climate we live in! Today amid a heavy snowstorm I picked in my garden a bowl of red roses (Prima Ballerina) in perfect condition. Yours faithfully, G. H. OSBORN, Cherry Tree Cottage, Merley Ways, Wimborne, Dorset. January 12.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Dunford & Elliott's Trojan Horse

Wednesday is subscription day for Dunford & Elliott's issue of the convertible preference shares. Seen initially as a major prop in Dunford's defence against Johnson & Firth Brown's takeover, the issue looks increasingly like a Trojan Horse.

Equally it is clear that the houses were taking radical action to overcome the problem of having to borrow regularly from the bank at a penal rate of 10.5 per cent.

Dunford shareholders selling their shares at a price of 25p for a share of 100p, a 75 per cent discount, is a major prop in Dunford's defence against Johnson & Firth Brown's takeover. Seen initially as a major prop in Dunford's defence against Johnson & Firth Brown's takeover, the issue looks increasingly like a Trojan Horse.

The bid is due to close on January 21, and despite first reports of a successful bid, Dunford shareholders must balance the possibility of recovery offered by Dunford against the offer of Johnson & Firth Brown. The bid is due to close on January 21, and despite first reports of a successful bid, Dunford shareholders must balance the possibility of recovery offered by Dunford against the offer of Johnson & Firth Brown.

### US underwriting Over the worst

Insurance underwriting in the United States last year pulled back nearly \$2,000 million from 1976's record \$4,254 million according to the annual review of the industry produced by Best's Insurance News. But with a 20 per cent increase in premiums written to \$9,540 million, the industry's underwriting loss in 1976 still amounted to \$2,329 million.

Among United States insurance stock companies, those most easily compared to the British companies, combined loss expense and underwriting expense ratios to premiums fell from 107.9 per cent to 102.8 per cent last year. And, although Best's hedges comments on current year prospects with reservations about regulatory and judicial attitudes towards the business, less politically committed observers are looking for ratios around the 100 per cent mark.

Extending Best's figures, stockbrokers Hoare, Govett are looking for United States industry ratios to fall to 99.1 per cent and 100 per cent this year. They expect the main British companies operating in the United States, covering around 5 per cent of the total business, to cut an aggregate estimated underwriting loss of \$102 million in 1976 to \$50 million this year, reducing ratios from an average of over 104 to 101.1 or 102 per cent.

Because of the world-wide spread of their business British groups in the United States do not have the pressure to resolve underwriting losses put on local companies by their stockholders. But another reason for the higher loss and expense ratios of the British companies is their traditional bias towards what have in recent years, become more difficult business areas.

General Accident's large motor accounts and the motor and workmen's compensation business of Commercial Union

and Royal all run into the problems outlined by Best's. Motor rates increases of 20.7 per cent in 1976 will ease problems in a business that represented 42.4 per cent of overall premium income in the United States. But ratios of 105.1 per cent last year show the continuing problem in a market where 63 per cent of the public already think rates are too high.

Workmen's compensation business suffered its worst year in 1976, total industry ratios rising from 107.4 per cent to 109.4 per cent and stock companies' ratios rising to 111.6 per cent. Premiums have risen 100 per cent in the past five years, losses by 125 per cent, and Best's sees nothing in view to reverse the problem.

### White Child & Beney The Guinness dilemma

White Child & Beney and its major shareholder, the Guinness subsidiary GPG, are now circling cautiously around one another, making tentative contact on the subject of the proposals which White Child agreed with the National Enterprise Board just before Christmas.

They provide for the placing of 2.4m WCB shares with the NEB, a move which will strengthen the company's debt: equity ratio, give it £1.1m in cash for a continuing programme of capital spending—and dilute GPG's 43 per cent ownership.

The proposals are dependent, inter alia, on the agreement of White Child's shareholders, which at first sight appears to put GPG in a strong position. Blocking the proposals will not, however, take GPG—which is "still interested" in White Child, and has been buying its shares in bits and pieces over recent months—any nearer its longer-term objective.

As a defensive move it has attracted, though, for White Child, a strong reaction from its shareholders for cash by way of rights by the difficulty of finding any institutions to underwrite an issue whose success was so heavily dependent on GPG's obtaining "certain assurances" from the NEB. With these White Child is reasonably confident that it has circumvented the dangers inherent in other methods of raising cash to strengthen the security base—an institutional placing or a bid for a cash-rich company—that its shares might fall into hands less resolute in retaining them than those of its existing shareholders have proved to be.

So the dilution of GPG's stake through a placing with the NEB would leave GPG in a distinctly weaker position. On the other hand, if GPG wants to block the move, it is going to have to incur the odium attached to a bid for its own shares, and it is not clear that it has the resources to do so. GPG is acutely conscious of the political overtones.

So the question now must be whether GPG will choose to sever the Gordian knot by renewing its bid; though after three years in which White Child has put up a reasonable performance in difficult conditions, GPG would certainly have to pay well over the market price for a reasonable chance of improving on the status quo.

Last week newspapers were full of the Prime Minister's new role as "Supremo" for economic and industrial affairs. Speculation ran first to the view that this resulted from a lobby briefing that got out of control. When, however, subsequent denial made it clear that the original stories and headlines were an accurate record of some wholly unattributable briefing, the emphasis changed to whether or not this was a deliberate vote of semi-confidence in either Mr. Healey, or Mr. Varley, or both.

An alternative suggestion was that the Prime Minister had decided on the scarcely original notion of using Noddy to spearhead the national revival, by taking the chair at its council meetings. None of these suggestions seemed very credible.

Any two in the ways of government should surely have seen that the lobby briefing was a blinding exercise. Accept that premise and the question is why the Prime Minister should wish to give an airing to such a clearly-labelled kite.

He seems to be contemplating some change in the relationship of the Prime Minister to his senior colleagues

within the Cabinet system and of them and their departments to the established mechanisms of Whitehall. Why should this be?

Mr. Callaghan is faced with the imminent prospect of chaotic rundown in two major industries—shipbuilding and textiles. The case of shipbuilding is made worse by the paralysing uncertainty caused by delay over nationalization. In both cases, however, all the political and official ideas from the past months and years have come to naught.

This Government and the last have struggled to produce a coherent industrial strategy, within which rational decisions could be made in cases like shipbuilding or textiles. Although they are the crises of the moment, both are only symptoms of the central problem that faces any government, namely how to arrest and then reverse the deep-rooted decline of Britain's relative industrial performance, private and public.

In both cases the Prime Minister has found that any possible solution involves the whole range of national economic and trade policy, international diplomacy and straight politics.

Fresh from the success of his personal involvement with Chancellor Schmidt in negotiating the safety net for sterling, the Prime Minister must wish to play a more central role in the formulation of policies to deal with these key problems. For the paradox of the British system is that, in terms of the Whitehall machine, the Prime Minister disposes of less bureaucratic power than any of his Cabinet colleagues.

His personal staff is small and policy is in general built on the foundation of departmental views. The development of the Cabinet Office and the introduction of the "think tank" in particular under Mr. Heath, have not greatly altered this basic pattern in practice.

Given a prime ministerial wish to strengthen the central decision-making structure of government, there are two models available, both from the fertile mind of the late Sir Richard Crossman, who invented our present public expenditure control system in the early 1960s and created the Ministry of Technology for the 1964 Labour Government. Both involve a major change in the role of the Treasury.

The first is essentially that the present functions of the Cabinet Office, including the "Think Tank", but excluding the purely administrative functions of the Cabinet secretariat, should be combined with the Treasury and the Civil Service Department to create a revitalized power-house at the centre of affairs.

The second would involve a clear split of the Treasury. The part which deals with the public sector would be joined with the Civil Service Department and the "Think Tank" to form a Central Management Department to deal specifically with those areas where government has direct executive responsibility.

The rest of the Treasury with the Revenue departments would then be left to form an economics and finance ministry of a sort conventional in other European countries.

With the authority of the Treasury within the system cumulatively much weakened by the events of the past seven years, the Prime Minister's kite must surely be to discover whether there is serious resistance to the idea of change.

## The kite flying over the Treasury

Hugh Stephenson

## Has Sandilands been sabotaged?

Accounting—the recording, analysing and interpreting of transactions—value is an audit, evolving art. Its "picture" is either photographic or dynamic: what is to be done? Above all, it is a language—the most universal international language—for expressing diversity in a common denominator—money. Hence the validity, and importance, of the first principle adduced in the Sandilands report on inflation accounting: "Money is the unit of measurement."

Exposure Draft 18, recently issued by the Accounting Standards Committee, while purporting to implement the Sandilands plan for current cost accounting (CCA), in fact its negative *de minimis* seeks to replace money by a concept (examined and rejected by Sandilands) of "funny money", deemed to possess the immortal attribute of constancy.

Sandilands was an exciting exploration into, and discovery of, new accounting principles: Exposure Draft 18 is a propaganda campaign on behalf of the equity shareholder. Sandilands, with its statement of "total gains", seeks to measure profit objectively as possible, the draft, with its appropriation account, adjusted by "the amount the directors have decided to appropriate", sinks into the abyss of subjectivity.

The Sandilands plan for CCA requires a radical reform: ED 18 sabotages and further delays implementation of CCA; and is, therefore, contrary to the public interest. CCA is a simple concept. The preparation of periodic accounts requires valuation of unexpired expenditure (whether classified as fixed assets, stocks or otherwise). Hitherto such valuations have, generally, been based on historic cost: henceforth, on current value.

The statement of total gains is the nub of the Sandilands plan. "In this report we define a company's 'total gain' as the difference between the measured amount of net assets at the beginning and end of the accounting year, after allowing for new capital put in and dividends taken out." Thus does Sandilands adopt the classic definition of profit established in *In Re Spanish Prospecting Co* [1911] 1 Ch. 2, adapted to inflationary conditions. "CCA is evolutionary, rather than revolutionary." Why all the porphy?

Such a simple-effective mode of accounting for inflation was, however, anathema to the hierarchy of the accounting profession because of the entrenched position. For some years, the ASC had been seeking to establish a distorted mode of accounting for inflation

accounting, called current purchasing power (CPP): profit was determined by charging stock appreciation and enhanced depreciation; but the enhancement (by inflation) of the assets so depleted was ignored. Not surprisingly, Sandilands rejected CPP as a viable system of inflation accounting.

The profession sought to express its opposition to Sandilands in accounting terms by arguing that Sandilands did not deal adequately with the erosion of cash assets and liabilities (now taken up eagerly by the banks). But this criticism is invalid because by stating tangible assets at current value, the relative erosion of cash assets and liabilities is clearly revealed.

What is to be learned from the 100-plus pages of sophistry and tergiversation of ED 18? Certainly not a coherent accounting system to

### Jack Clayton

replace the Sandilands CCA which it sabotages. It neither defines profit nor earnings per share, and it reverses the Sandilands logic of deriving profit from the movement of net assets.

The crux is that the ASC has placed itself in a false position. Initially it merely supported the cut-company-tax lobby, but has now assumed its leadership. The effect of the lobby has been striking: in 1952, companies paid nearly one quarter of the £4,500 million tax bill, while in 1975 they paid less than 5 per cent of £34,000 million.

Sir Ronald Leach (then chairman of the ASC) shortly before launching the exposure draft of CPP said: "Inflation accounting normally resulted in a lower figure of published profit than conventional methods". That is true of CPP; and of ED 18. But its implication, that inflation reduces company profits, is diametrically opposed to the truth.

It is well known that, by inflation, the debtor robs the creditor: nearly one-half of the tangible assets of major British companies are financed by the excess (over cash assets) of loans, creditors, prior charges and deferred tax. In general, therefore, inflation increases company profits, although operating profits are thereby reduced. That is why the total gains statement (segregating operating, extraordinary and holding gains) is the nub of the Sandilands CCA system.

It is also the reason for the ED 18 appropriation account, wherein profit-manipulated on a "gut-feeling, think-of-a-number" basis—might range

between total gain and zero. Indeed, as ED 18 also proposes to eliminate deferred tax, the full scope, for the imaginative "balancing" of the appropriation account, is from zero to some one-and-a-half times total gain.

Sandilands recognizes the essential dichotomy of profit in inflationary conditions; which ED 18 denies. That is what underlies the legitimate complaint of Sir Kenneth Bond (exposed managing director of GEC) in his *Times* article (December 7) of the denigration of the performance of British industry and the discouragement of its management.

The cure is, of course, that, in future, earnings per share must be based both on operating profit and total gain. The crux of ED 18 is in paragraph 16 of the introduction: "The Steering Group is well aware of the importance of companies attaching to acceptance of CCA by the Inland Revenue and the Price Commission, and is holding discussions with the former and will be with the latter when appropriate."

Such activity of the Steering Group appears to be outside its terms of reference. In any event it is shameful that such partisan discussions with all bodies should be undertaken—not by the CBI as representing industry—but on behalf of the leading accounting organizations; and without the "comprehensive review of taxation as a whole extending beyond the corporate sector," which Sandilands recommended should precede any question of the use of CCA for tax purposes.

Moreover, the trend of company tax, during the past decade, has been from a profit to a cash-flow basis and with the greater realization of the subjective nature of profit concepts, this trend is unlikely to be reversed. Britain is in the throes of its deepest postwar crisis with a defective accounting system which—due for the sabotage of CCA—would already have been substantially made good again.

Nearly 18 months have been wasted since the future form of company accounts was determined. Sandilands then urged: "It is essential that companies should show the effects of changing costs and prices on their affairs for accounting periods before CCA becomes mandatory". The ASC should forthwith recommend that this should now be done. The results would surprise them.

The author is former deputy managing director of Rediffusion, a former member of the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and a former chairman of its taxation and research committee.

## Industrial changes that threaten Sweden's prosperity

In Sweden for the first time in four decades a moderate government is in office. But its accession to power coincides with a period of fear that the factors which have enabled the country to maintain a high standard of living may be at risk.

Swedish prosperity has been based on the export of quality products selling at competitive prices. Unemployment throughout 1975 and 1976 has never exceeded 1.7 per cent and over the years 1973 to 1976 the number in employment actually rose by nearly 6 per cent. Share prices, too, rose by 125 per cent on the Stockholm Stock Exchange between 1971 and 1976. But there are fears that the competitive edge may be lost in the future.

Among the adverse factors affecting sales, the rise in wage costs is conspicuous. Before 1974, hourly wages rose at an annual rate of under 10 per cent, but in 1974 and 1975 increased by more than a year occurred. (The consumer price index has risen approximately 4 per cent slower than wages.) There have been large increases in social costs for pensions and similar purposes, and the business and industry has been able to absorb the increased costs through improved efficiency.

However, much of the past efficiency was derived from structural changes which are likely to be difficult to effect in the future; restructuring for social reasons, such as creating jobs in the development areas of the far north, seems to be the only acceptable pattern for the near future.

Historically, the labour relations of Sweden have been the admiration of the western world. Wage negotiations have been conducted centrally by two powerful bodies, SAF, representing the employers, and LO, representing the blue collar unions.

The policy of SAF was based on equal pay for equal work. The policy of LO was not very different—it was based on solidarity, or equal pay. LO has had the greater success, the percentage difference between higher and lower paid having roughly halved over two decades.

The equal pay policy has had two effects. First, it has made it difficult for firms to compete in industries such as textiles which are traditionally low paid areas in the rest of the world. Secondly, it has caused the more highly skilled to be dissatisfied with the differential. Skilled workers were militant in pressing local claims by wildcat strikes in 1970, and by threats of strikes in 1974-75.

SAF, too, has been less energetic in imposing fines in member firms breaking a central agreement. The visible success of local action has diminished the central authority of LO.

### Participation moves

With less ability to absorb increase in labour costs and faced by a central union organization with declining authority (but still very powerful), the employers may elect to take a tougher line in future negotiations.

In the early 1970s it seemed that autonomous working groups would be the favoured route in Sweden for the development of industrial democracy. Although successful with particular problems, working groups have spread less quickly than has in-depth consultation through works councils. A new feature is the economic committee in many companies for the explanation, through the balance sheet, of the economic position of the company.

Management see the economic committee as a means of involving the workers in the problems of the company and so inducing restraint in future wage claims. The unions see the financial information as a means of substantiating future wage claims. Under an Act passed in 1976, decisions taken by any

company must be approved by the workers—the so called codetermination policy. The operating mechanism and the areas of decision have still to be agreed between SAF and LO, but there will be many problems.

SAF hopes that the Act will merely ratify the consultation processes already evident in many companies; some workers believe the Act will give them the opportunity to show what they can really do. The small companies fear for their very existence.

Because of the detailed knowledge essential for success LO believes the mechanism must operate at local level at the same time LO recognizes that there is an educational problem and has ambitious plans for worker training (mostly at the expense of the employers).

SAF, too, believes local involvement is essential and will also have training problems in training just one generation to the new situation. SAF also believes local resources will be required to match local responsibilities so that industry might become, in effect, a mass of mini-companies.

The new conditions have combined to generate a widespread feeling of uncertainty—an uncertainty which was quite lacking in earlier years.

### 'Share fund' proposal

The economic research section of LO has made recommendations on the economic control of the companies in manufacturing industry by the workers. Adopted as LO policy at the congress in 1976, the proposal has generated considerable opposition outside LO. During the general election in 1976, the then socialist prime minister, Olof Palme, was at pains to play down the issue.

Because workers are greatly attracted to generate a wide range of decisions made by industry, it was believed essential for the workers to be able to influence, and even to determine, the decisions. Two worker representatives are already on the boards of about 70 per cent of Swedish companies but more power was sought by LO.

Rudolf Meidner, the economic adviser to Sweden's parliament, the Riksdag, recommended that the "excess profits" of all companies should be allocated in the form of shares to central funds controlled by the workers; a figure of 20 per cent of all profits has been discussed, so the build up could be fairly rapid for what is called "economic democracy". There has been little evidence of enthusiasm among the workers for the workers for the funds.

A committee appointed by SAF to examine the implications of the Meidner funds, regards the proposals as an unwarranted expropriation of assets belonging to shareholders; this, it is claimed, would have an adverse effect on share prices and make it exceedingly difficult if not impossible to attract new share capital.

The benefits of employee involvement are recognized but would be better achieved through voluntary savings for the purchase of shares. Savings of 1 per cent of wages would raise roughly the same amount of money as the Meidner funds, and shares could be frozen for, say, five or 10 years before becoming available to individual workers.

The unions will probably continue to cooperate with employers and with the moderate government because it is in the interests of the workers to do so. Pressure will continue for the implementation of the Meidner scheme or something similar.

In the past three years, if the unions failed in negotiations, they demanded legislation in their favour. The Socialist Government was happy to take up such issues, but the moderate government will be less eager. The moderates are unlikely to revoke earlier legislation, but they will most certainly try to slow down the rate of change. It will be interesting to see if a stable compromise can be achieved.

H. G. Jones

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## Business Diary in Europe: Zurich pips the City for the bond dealers

Association of International Bond Dealers has come of age at the appointment of its full-time secretary general, 54-year-old John Wolters, who will be setting up a permanent retainer in Zurich.

In the past the AIBD has been accused of ineffectuality, though that was very largely a reflection of the youth of the reborn market and the wide range of uncertainty among the strong membership about the association's role.

Recently, however, it has begun to establish itself as a force in the Eurobond market. The market has grown and widened—outstanding issues now total close to \$50,000 million—and more operators are coming into it, so has the need for a coordinating institution.

The association's chief interest is in the functioning of the secondary market but Stani Sukovich, the present chairman, says that it is becoming involved in the problems of the primary issuing market. Wolters is an Australian of the origin. For three years he was based in Paris representing the Australian delegation to the OECD and since 1974 he has been adviser on external relations to the board of Phillips in Eindhoven.

The question likely to be asked in London, very much the ding centre for the Eurobond market, is why Wolters should set up shop in Zurich. The AIBD is registered in Switzerland and the Swiss and their clients still the biggest ultimate investors in Eurobonds.

He also argues that while London is the biggest market there are other active markets in Europe, like Luxembourg, for instance, which might not like to see the AIBD here. Much better, he says, to keep quietly neutral in Switzerland.

### Tour de force

After much discussion and soul searching since a disagreement over the venue for this year's annual convention, which threatened to grow into open warfare at its 1976 conference in Athens, the Association of British Travel Agents has finally opted for Portugal.

Political uncertainty and fluctuating sterling exchange rates have given the Portuguese tourist trade a thin slice of business, but although an improvement has been forecast for this year.

Almeida-Reis thinks the ABTA convention will help, quite apart from £750,000 or so worth of business the conference itself is worth.

In the expansionist days a few years ago it was suggested that the conference should alternate between what the trade describes as "short haul" (near) and "long haul" (distant) places. It was Miami in 1975.

Had the going remained good, Nairobi would have been the choice for this year, but the trade's dismal prospects caused



Geoffrey Rippon, Raymond Barre and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing: "An if my word be sterling yet in England..."

the tour operators in ABTA (who are responsible for flying out the delegates) to job at the cost.

Back from Athens, ABTA put "Nairobi or not" to the vote. The result, announced last week, was only 173 companies for to 983 against.

### Pocket money

Raymond Barre, the French premier, now back in Paris after his visit to London, leaves a mystery behind him. The agreement to help Britain to deal with the problem of sterling balances should also make the franc more secure, as Barre said in London, but that makes it all the more surprising that the French declined even token support for the scheme.

The official French reason, given during the talks which led up to the Basle arrange-

ment, was that France did not have enough money to make a large contribution and would lose face if it made a small one, smaller than that of The Netherlands, for example.

This is rather odd logic, since less than a month ago the French contributed \$55m to the money needed for Britain's loan from the International Monetary Fund, less than half what the Dutch gave.

On that occasion the French view seems to have been that it did not matter how much they gave, but that it was important to make at least a token gesture so as not to lose face. Maybe that just shows that the French are not so logical as they like to claim. Or maybe it shows that Barre has a long memory.

For, during the period of Britain's negotiations with the European Community, he

persistently gave warnings (in line with traditional French policy) that the sterling balances were a millstone round Britain's neck and that the EEC ought to think very carefully before sharing them.

Indeed, during the key session of negotiations on the very vague assurances which Britain's negotiator, Geoffrey Rippon, was offering the clearly found the British position unconvincing and intended to say so—that is, until one of the Community's finance ministers said that as far as his government was concerned the sterling problem needed to be pursued no more.

Thus, the one major ground on which Britain might have been kept out of the Community was rejected. And who was the finance minister who so cruelly pre-







# FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Euromarkets

Though new issue activity in the Eurobond market got off to a slow start this month, many specialists expect the volume of offerings to rise sharply next week, writes AP-Dow Jones.

Estimates of the number of offerings likely to be scheduled vary between six and nine.

To be sure, some underwriters are qualifying their views by saying that if short-term Eurobond rates should turn up, then some issues may be held back for offering later.

One dealer said he would not be surprised if short-term interest rates moved up a point next month or so as the United States Federal Reserve sought to slow expansion of the money supply and the United States Treasury raised large amounts. However, some other analysts were arguing that there might be a technical upward move in interest rates but that the trend line for short-term interest rates is sideways. We feel that corporations are very liquid and will stay that way so long as the money market remains calm.

**Euromarket prices (yields and premiums)**

| Country | Term      | Yield | Premium |
|---------|-----------|-------|---------|
| France  | 3 months  | 10.50 | 0.00    |
| France  | 6 months  | 10.75 | 0.00    |
| France  | 12 months | 11.00 | 0.00    |
| Germany | 3 months  | 10.25 | 0.00    |
| Germany | 6 months  | 10.50 | 0.00    |
| Germany | 12 months | 10.75 | 0.00    |
| Italy   | 3 months  | 11.50 | 0.00    |
| Italy   | 6 months  | 11.75 | 0.00    |
| Italy   | 12 months | 12.00 | 0.00    |
| Spain   | 3 months  | 12.50 | 0.00    |
| Spain   | 6 months  | 12.75 | 0.00    |
| Spain   | 12 months | 13.00 | 0.00    |
| UK      | 3 months  | 11.00 | 0.00    |
| UK      | 6 months  | 11.25 | 0.00    |
| UK      | 12 months | 11.50 | 0.00    |

## Good CSO figures fail to boost De Beers

### Mining

A few years ago, Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, made a little speech to a conference in Britain. That day the FT 30 share index fell eight points and City pundits had the feeling that Mr Jones had been responsible for a full five points of the fall.

The speech Mr Jones had made was not particularly controversial. Indeed, he had been making the same sort of noises for many years, and yet the spontaneous reaction of the market was to raise share prices. The following day, after all had been given time to think of the speech and its implications, the FT index rose as it became apparent that Mr Jones was not calling for the immediate overthrow of the capitalist system and that he had not, in fact, said anything particularly new.

So what does Mr Jones have to do with mining? Well, nothing directly, although he has been a moving force behind threatened trade union action against South Africa this week. But the antics of the market last week over the results from the Central Selling Organisation and the consequent effect on the De Beers share price put the very much more in the reaction to Mr Jones's speech.

The CSO produced some brilliant results. Agreed, they were more or less anticipated, but even so, US\$1,555m—a cool \$200m, or 13.5%—they were at the upper end of even the most optimistic forecasts, but you would never have believed it from the way the share price reacted. (Last week I went for \$1,550m and said that \$50m either side was an acceptable margin of error, but I did not expect the CSO to do me down by another \$5m—still what is an odd \$5m between friends.)

Of course De Beers suffers from the South African connection and more so than most because of its extensive and profitable presence in Namibia, but as I mentioned last week (the shares are now 1p cheaper) a prospective p/p

## Australia hopes to sell more beef to Japan

Tokyo, Jan 16.—An Australian delegation led by Mr Andrew Peggcock, the Foreign Minister, arrived here for talks on trade, fisheries and other bilateral economic problems.

Topics for discussion at the fourth Japan-Australian ministerial committee meeting will include increased Japanese imports of Australian beef and access to Australian ports for Japanese fishing vessels.

Another major subject will be Japan's investment in the development of Australia's mineral and other natural resources. Mr Peggcock was accompanied by Mr Ian Sinclair, Primary Industries Minister, and Mr Peter Nixon, Transport Minister.

Attention is focused on whether Japan will make concessions to the Australian demand for restoration of its import quota for Australian beef. Last month, Japan slashed the quota to 20,000 tons for the second half of the current fiscal year, ending in March, from the previous 45,000 tons, touching off sharp protests.

Australia has indicated that it would not agree to extend the present quota, but that it would be prepared to release additional quantities in an effort to arrest the upsurge in world prices.

However, with world prices now comfortably above the tin agreement ceiling, and the tin buffer stop manager therefore powerless to buy tin, the problem lies in finding ways to replenish stocks.

This is just what Bolivia, the world's second biggest tin producer, is trying to do. Bolivia is against when the current price range of Malaysian \$1,075 to \$1,150 to \$1,430 should be adopted.

As a producer, Bolivia may have been more concerned about the minimum price rather than the maximum, but with the Straits tin price climbing to a record level of \$1,400 a picul, this week's tin position was clearly justified. However, there is no guarantee that the consumers who defeated the Bolivian proposal then will be

## International Tin Agreement in trouble as buffer stop runs out

### Commodities

The current deficit of tin, argues the trade, is in the region of 30,000 tonnes—reflected in the fact that the tin price on the London Metal Exchange is now 10% in discount to the tin's own quotations.

But if the United States cannot utilize its huge stockpile in the near future, and prices remain above \$1,325, how can the Tin Council regain some measure of control on the market?

The simple answer is that the ceiling will have to be raised. The council has found itself in a similar position before. The buffer was run down completely in both 1961 and 1967, while in 1974 supplies ran dangerously low. Also the council is not accustomed to making frequent changes to the agreement price, having done so twice during the first half of 1976.

However, agreement on a higher price may not be so easy to achieve. The December meeting of the council demonstrated the depth of consumer opposition. Having seen market prices break through the upper limit yet again, many consumers may now decide that there is little future in a stabilization scheme which cannot contain world prices.

Some feel that could take perhaps six months to gain the necessary approval of Congress. Presumably as a signatory to the fifth international tin agreement, the United States would also have to win the approval of the Tin Council. That, too, might prove difficult.

There is a strong body of opinion in trade circles that without United States intervention prices are likely to remain above the tin agreement ceiling for some time. Claims that the recent price rise was fuelled by speculators trying to undermine the agreement are simply discounted.

The tin agreement, the argument goes, has simply not been allowed to control the world's price.

However, whatever the merits of the tin agreement, it is difficult to find. The next council session promises to be a lively affair.

**Bank Base Rates**

| Bank                 | Rate |
|----------------------|------|
| Barclays Bank        | 14%  |
| Consolidated Credits | 14%  |
| First London Secs    | 14%  |
| C. Hoare & Co.       | 14%  |
| Lloyds Bank          | 14%  |
| Midland Bank         | 14%  |
| Nat Westminister     | 14%  |
| Rossmore & Co.       | 14%  |
| Shenley Trust        | 14%  |
| Williams & Glyn's    | 14%  |

**More share prices**

The following will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

| Company                | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1550 Alkerming Ord     | 31    | +1     | 4.2   | 13.7 |
| 270 Alkerming 184 CULS | 108   | +1     | 18.5  | 17.1 |
| 675 Armstrong & Rhodes | 27    | +1     | 3.0   | 11.1 |
| 1369 Deborah Ord       | 102   | +1     | 8.2   | 8.1  |
| 224 Deborah 171 CULS   | 112   | +1     | 17.5  | 15.6 |
| 324 Henry Sykes        | 46    | +1     | 2.2   | 4.8  |
| 2080 Robert Jenkins    | 202   | +2     | 25.0  | 12.4 |
| 2718 Twinkl Ord        | 13    | +1     | 12.0  | 22.2 |
| 1474 Twinkl Holdings   | 52    | +1     | 6.1   | 17.7 |
| 2295 Unilock 12        | 52    | +1     | 6.1   | 17.7 |
| 1232 Walter Alexander  | 67    | +1     | 5.8   | 8.7  |

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## Unit Trust Prices—change on the week FT Index change on week 363.9-1.4 (0.4%)

| Unit Trust             | Price | Change | Yield | P/E  |
|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1550 Alkerming Ord     | 31    | +1     | 4.2   | 13.7 |
| 270 Alkerming 184 CULS | 108   | +1     | 18.5  | 17.1 |
| 675 Armstrong & Rhodes | 27    | +1     | 3.0   | 11.1 |
| 1369 Deborah Ord       | 102   | +1     | 8.2   | 8.1  |
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| 2295 Unilock 12        | 52    | +1     | 6.1   | 17.7 |
| 1232 Walter Alexander  | 67    | +1     | 5.8   | 8.7  |



### Stock Exchange Price

## Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, Jan 28. § Contango Day, Jan 31. Settlement Day, Feb 8  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]







